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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After you buy a new computer, what do you do with the old one?

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4 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Evacuation

Authorities warned 1 million to flee inland as Hurricane Ike steamed toward a swath of the Texas coast.

NATION...Page 24

Atom Smasher

A small blip on a computer screen sent champagne corks popping among physicists in Switzerland.

WORLD...Page 27

The Twist

Of all the No. 1 songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, "The Twist" ranks as the most popular single.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 30

Federalization forum to be streamed live to Web. **PAGE 2**

Farmers learn about exporting produce to Guam. **PAGE 3**

FEMA: Stafford Act does not apply to power crisis

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is not eligible for federal intervention under the Stafford Act, a FEMA representative said yesterday.

Local residents, upset with the current power crisis and increased costs of utilities fees, are organizing a rally planned for next week to ask for federal interven-

See FEMA on Page 4

Pete A. appeals to Bush on CUC crisis

"This letter is being sent in desperation. I know fully well that it is the responsibility of the governor to request federal disaster assistance, but due to his reluctance and inaction to do so, I am appealing to you for assistance."

—Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio

RELATED NEWS

OPINION: A plea for federal help with CUC crisis. **PAGE 11**

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In what he calls an act of desperation, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio wrote President Bush asking for help with the power situation on Saipan.

See PETE on Page 4

FREEDOM WALK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children of deployed U.S. service members hold lighted candles as they parade for Saipan's first "Freedom Walk" to honor the victims of 9/11 and America's military personnel, as well as to celebrate freedom yesterday afternoon. The walk started at the Chamolinian Cultural Village toward the American Memorial Park in Garapan and was participated by spouses, parents and children of deployed personnel, TSA employees, students and other members of the community.

Aggreko engines expected to start operation today

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Muna

The completion status of installing the emergency generators continues to be a day-to-day situation, but as of yesterday afternoon, the Aggreko generators are expected to be turned on today, as originally scheduled, said Commonwealth Utilities Corp. ex-

See AGGREKO on Page 4

Tourism takes a dive in August

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Far fewer tourists arrived in the CNMI during August, with newly issued tourism statistics by the Marianas Visitors Authority showing a 13.5-percent drop in visitors arrivals compared to the same month last year.

In a statement Thursday, MVA attributed part of the decline to a shift among

See TOURISM on Page 4

Hans Mickelson

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Local

Federalization forum to be streamed live to 'Net

Community urged to participate in discussion

To heighten the discussion about federalization, and particularly its impact on the local culture, the NMI Council for the Humanities will be hosting a roundtable discussion as part of the Council's "We the People" Project on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008 at 7pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium.

Those not able to personally attend the roundtable session can view and participate in the dialogue by logging on to www.wethepeoplecnmi.com, where the discussion will be streamed live.

ON THE WEB
www.wethepeoplecnmi.com

Common wisdom holds that globalization is inevitable as a result of (and convergence of) the widespread use of the Internet, the ease of travel restrictions around the world, the advancement of technology, an economy that commands an international supply chain, and other agents of change.

The CNMI Islands is certainly not immune to what is happening in the global arena. Residents need only to look at the meteoric rise of the price of gasoline to see how events in other parts of the world are impacting life here.

Given all these, what of the local culture? How will the CNMI's inevitable integration into the larger global structure impact local culture? And more specifically, given the agents of change mentioned above, what role would the recent federalization of labor and immigration play? As the CNMI becomes more a part of the bigger U.S. family, could federalization be the saving grace of local culture? Or could it hasten its disappearance?

These are only some of the questions that will be discussed at the roundtable discussion, which is part of the NMICH's "We the People" Project and organized by Taro Leaf, Inc.

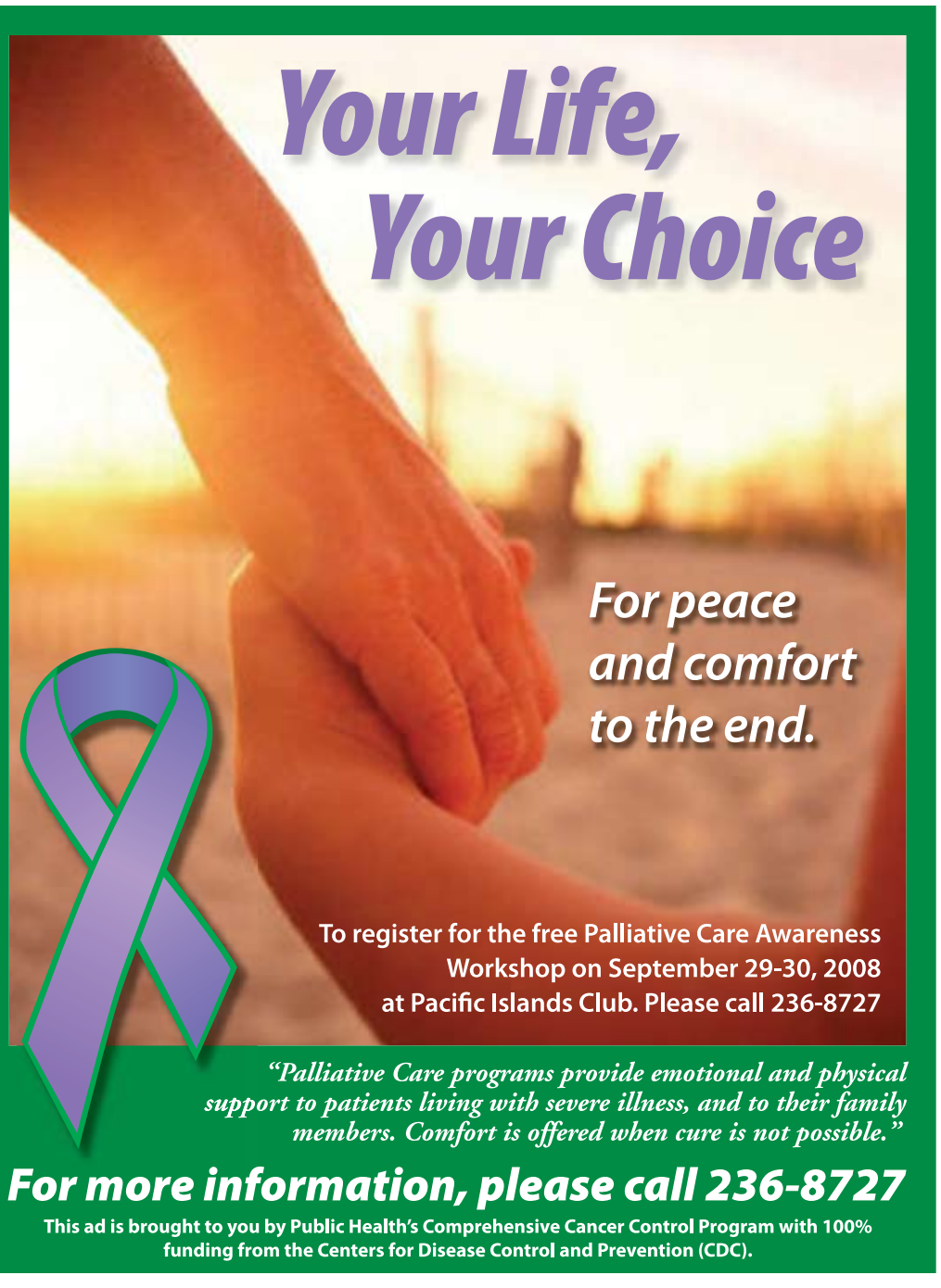
Leading the discussion will be some of notable members of the CNMI community, who will be using some literary material as a basis for the thought provoking discussion. The material can be downloaded from www.wethepeoplecnmi.com.

Some of the panelists include Rep. Tina Sablan, Gregorio Cruz, Irene Tantiado, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, Edwin Propst, and Sam McPhetres. Robert Torres, attorney, will be moderating the discussion as well as collecting questions from the community through the audience members.

In addition to watching the discussion live on www.wethepeoplecnmi.com, community members can also submit their questions via instant messaging on the same website, call by phone to 287-7954, 7955 or 7957 or e-mail and send instant messages (via Google Talk) to taroleafgroup@gmail.com,

The discussion will take place on Sept. 16, 2008 at 7pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. The public is invited to attend. No admission fee will be charged.

Special thanks to C.D. Consulting Services, PTI, and R&A Soundhire. ***(PR)***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Island farmers learn about exporting produce to Guam

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Farmers from the CNMI gathered yesterday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan to learn about the possibility of selling their locally grown fruits and vegetables to commissaries on Guam once the military buildup takes place.

Larry Bentley, Zone manager for Guam's Defense Commissary Agency, and Lynnwood Baker, representing Guam buyer JL Baker & Sons, spoke to the approximately 20 CNMI farmers about the necessary steps needed in order to create a partnership between the farmers and DeCA.

"This is a starting point for discussions for the buildup in Guam," Bentley said. "We're looking down the line. This will not happen next week or next month."

Sablan

Local businessman David Sablan organized the meeting with Bently and Baker.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Sablan told the farmers. "We cannot fail. We must succeed."

The farmers must form an association and agree on prices for the commodities to be competitive against Guam farmers and farmers from the States, Sablan said.

"We need to organize ourselves, and say 'this is what I'm growing,'" he said. "The price has to be uniform."

The military will not go from individual farmer to individual farmer to buy produce, Sablan said.

"They will only be interested in dealing with one person," he said.

During the meeting, some of the attendees raised questions about the additional costs to ship the produce to Guam

Additional costs would need to be considered, but in order to be competitive with Guam and mainland suppliers, the consumer should not absorb the costs, Baker said. He recommended negotiating with Freedom Air for a price break to transport the items.

"Coming from the States, the costs are not put on the consumer," he said.

JL Baker & Sons imports 90 percent of their fruits and vegetables from the States, he said.

"The volumes [coming from Guam] at this time are still rather small," he said.

The next step, Sablan said, is for the farmers to catalog the various produce they grow and list the item's price, not including freight costs.

Vincent Calvo, the Secretary of the Rota Municipal Council, said he was interested in getting fellow Rota farmers involved in the project. Also, he said, he was going to invite Bentley and Baker to travel to the island to meet with Rota's farmer co-op.

DeCA currently has two commissaries on Guam and plans to build an additional commissary to go along with the military buildup that will take place in 2012, bringing 8,000 personnel to Guam from Japan. DeCA is anticipating commissary sales to double to $9 to $10 million per year after the buildup, Bentley said.

It's still business as usual for Immigration officers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Despite the uncertainty in their employment under the federalization law, Immigration officers and staff are going about their usual business as much as they can, according to Immigration Services director Melvin Grey.

"We're just keeping the doors open," said Grey in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He said everybody knows the visitor numbers are down so it is really tight all the way around budget-wise.

"There is no revenue for the government coming in. Budgets are tight. Every dollar counts. We are just doing what we can," the director said.

Grey noted that they've turned things around at the Immigration Services, especially in the first six to eight months of the administration.

"Again, the foundation is always been there for CNMI Immigration. It is just a lot of times, it wasn't administered or followed as probably should have been done," he said.

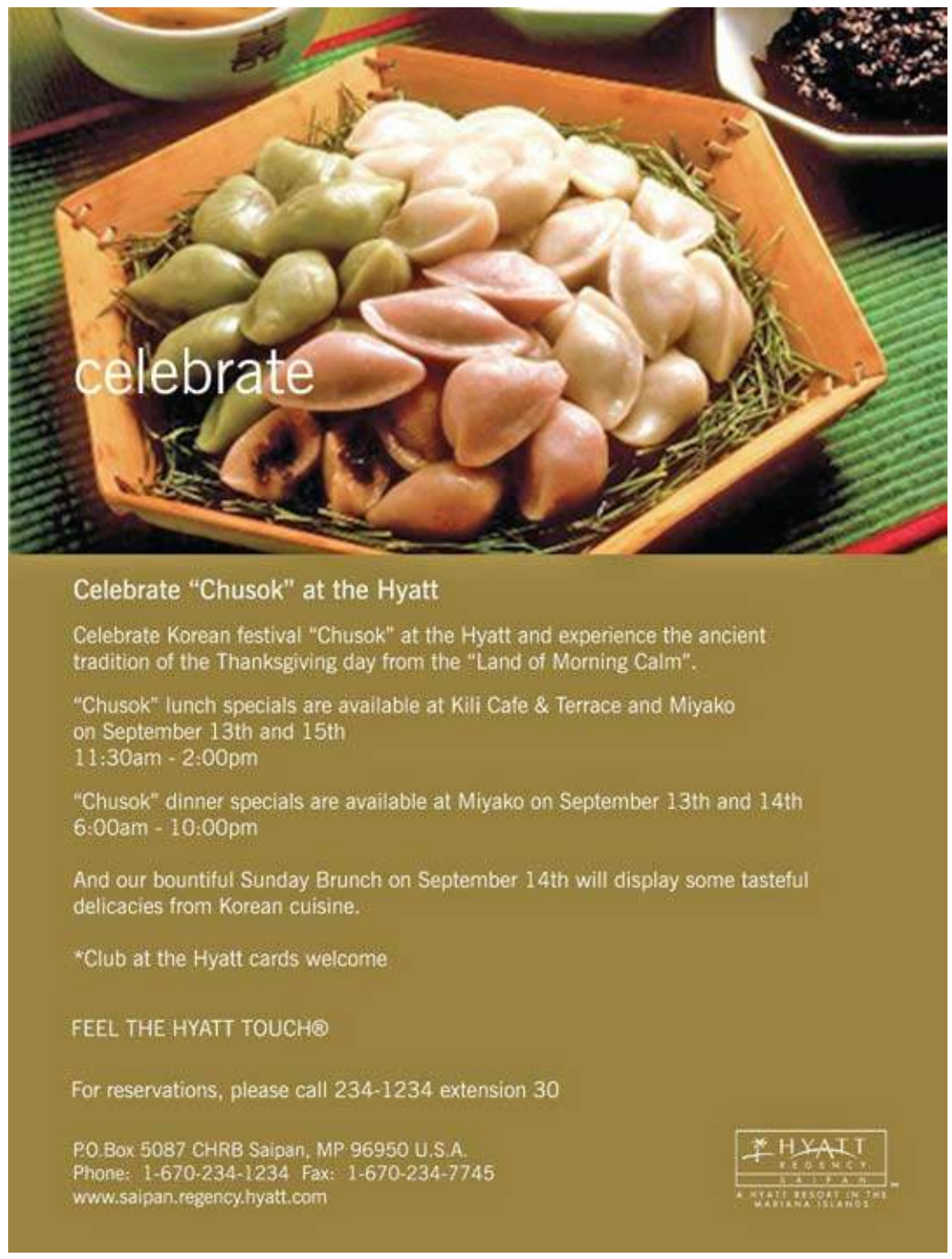
Grey said Immigration is a solid organization with good employees.

"We just got back on track. It was just a matter of putting it back together and saying no, this is the line we follow, go in this direction and these are the standards, stick with it," he said.

The director said the office under his term has witnessed tremendous appreciation and cooperation from the public, the visitors and the employees themselves.

"It is just one unusual circumstance, like we got a win, win, win for almost all the way around here. Very few general complaints. It's been quite enjoyable," he said.

Grey earlier stated that the federalization law will wipe out the careers of local immigration officers.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FREEDOM WALK
Spouses, parents and children of deployed U.S. service members, TSA employees, students and other members of the community gather for a photo after participating in Saipan's first "Freedom Walk" at the American Memorial Park yesterday. The event honors the victims of 9/11 and America's military personnel, as well as to celebrate freedom.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

AGGREKO

From Page 1

ecutive director Antonio Muña.

Earlier in the week, Aggreko crewmembers had been experiencing trouble with the installation process due to the weather, but if the weather continues to hold, everything should be ready today, Muña said.

"Based on what I saw, they were closing the gap from falling behind," he said. "It's pushing through."

The wet weather had caused safety issues and hampered the crews' efforts, Muña said. The crew is working with high voltage connections, and the wiring must be dry, he said. If it is wet, a sensor goes off alerting the crew that the connection cannot be completed.

On Wednesday, Muña said CUC crewmembers had completed everything that was necessary from the utility company's side.

The generators are expected to be fully operational by Sept. 16 or 17 and provide an additional 15 megawatts of power to the island.

CUC's two power plants and the privately-run Power Plant 4 have been providing the island 19 to 28 megawatts daily during the last few weeks. Approximately 41 megawatts are needed to provide 24-hour power.

Muña said there should be no rotating power outages once the generators are fully operational next week.

"We didn't bring Aggreko in here so we could still load shed," he said.

There have been questions raised whether the 15 megawatts supplied by the emergency generators will be enough to supply the island the necessary amount of megawatts.

As of Wednesday morning, 28.2 megawatts were being produced on the island's three power plants. Power Plant 1 was producing 12.5 megawatts, Power Plant 2 was producing 2 megawatts and Power Plant 4, which is privately run by Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., was producing 13.7 megawatts.

In the last few weeks, as little as 19 megawatts have been provided for the island, with 5 megawatts coming from CUC's two plants.

Muña said Aggreko's 15 megawatts will allow the individual engines at the plants to be rotated, allowing time for more maintenance and repair.

For example, Muña said, at Power Plant 1, CUC crews currently try to continually run the four engines to provide as much power to the island as possible. But once the emergency generators are operational, the engines will be worked on a rotating schedule, allowing for more maintenance.

After the Aggreko generators reach full capacity, Muña said he is anticipating Power Plant 4 to produce 14 megawatts, Power Plant 1 to produce 10 megawatts, and Power Plant 2 to carry six to eight.

"The key thing is to make sure all of the assets are there," he said.

TOURISM

From Page 1

Japanese tourists—whose visits to the CNMI showed an increase in July over last year's figures—to favoring domestic destinations over foreign travel, a change due to rising fuels costs that have in turn boosted ticket prices.

"September is traditionally strong and October and November are low peak periods," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We will continue to work closely with our travel industry partners to ensure we maintain our share of the outbound travelers."

Japan has seen a long period of decreasing outbound travel, MVA notes in the statement. In August this year, 20,691 Japanese visitors arrived in the CNMI, roughly 3,000 less than figures seen one year ago.

Korean tourism, meanwhile, has plateaued with nearly the same number of visitors in August (10,684), as that seen in August 2007 (10,648).

Russian tourism is on the rise, the statement notes, though the number of Russian visitors remains low when compared to other demographics. Arrivals from Russia rose 85 percent in August over 2007 numbers with 631. While fewer Russian tourists come to the CNMI than visitors from other Asian markets, MVA points to statistics that show the average Russian visitor spends $3,704, which is more than most travelers.

A total of 34,221 visitors arrived in the CNMI in August, while 35,254 arrived in July.

PETE

From Page 1

Tenorio in his letter called for federal intervention in the ongoing power crisis. He said he had to make the request because the Fitial administration refuses to do so.

"This letter is being sent in desperation," Tenorio told the President. "I know fully well that it is the responsibility of the governor to request federal disaster assistance, but due to his reluctance and inaction to do so, I am appealing to you for assistance."

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior in finding solutions to the power problem. Nikolao Pula, chief of the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, will visit the CNMI later this month and will meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial regarding the power issue, among other things.

Reyes also noted that Fitial, at the beginning of his administration, asked the U.S. Congress for bailout money for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., but nothing came out of that request.

"Frankly, I would not put much credence into Pete A. Tenorio's statement regarding the Governor or into his letter to President Bush. He's running for the congressional delegate position, and he is using this as a publicity stunt to stay relevant in a crowded delegate race he may be trailing as a result of his strong endorsement for federalization," Reyes said.

In a press release, Tenorio said he supports the initiative by local citizens to petition the President to invoke the Stafford Act and authorize the Federal Emergency Management Administration to mobilize other federal agencies and resources to assist CUC.

The administration has downplayed this option, saying the federal act does not apply to Saipan's power crisis. Citing an opinion secured by the CNMI Department of Finance, Reyes said the Stafford Act only applies to a major natural disaster, such as an earthquake, or a major man-made disaster, such as a terrorist attack. "Previous neglect, mismanagement, or corruption apparently do not qualify as a man-made disaster under the language of the federal law," Reyes said.

Tenorio said FEMA has given him a different interpretation of the law. "My conversations with FEMA have indicated that it does not matter the cause of the disaster, only its effect on human life. FEMA responded to the bridge collapse in Minnesota last year, and that was caused by a lack of maintenance," he said.

CUC has not been able to meet daily peak demand for power for more than a year. Recently, CUC has only been able to generate less than half of what is needed to power Saipan. This has resulted in frequent power outages throughout the island.

Tenorio in his letter to Bush noted that the government has exhausted federal funds earmarked for needed infrastructure attempting to repair Saipan's main generators, but they continue to fail and the situation grows worse everyday.

He also said that many households have been forced to disconnect and many businesses have closed because they cannot afford to pay the almost 50 cents a kilowatt-hour rate charged by CUC.

"Therefore, Mr. President, on behalf of your fellow American citizens residing in the CNMI and as their duly elected representative here in Washington, I respectfully request assistance in not only assessing the scope and magnitude of this catastrophe, but also in finding an immediate and timely resolution to this urgent humanitarian crisis," Tenorio said.

FEMA

From Page 1

tion under the Stafford Act.

Kim Walz, External Affairs director for FEMA's Region IX, said the island's power situation is not an issue related to the Stafford Act. She said FEMA has been monitoring the island's situation but the organization is not directly involved.

In the past, FEMA has provided generators for schools and shelters, but only after a disaster, Walz said.

The Act defines a disaster as any natural catastrophe, including hurricanes, tornados, storms, high water, wind driven water, tidal waves, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, mudslides, snowstorms, or droughts. Fires, floord or explosions, regardless of cause, are also defined as disasters.

The Stafford Act allows for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to request federal intervention during times of a major disaster. The Act gives FEMA the responsibility to coordinate various government and non-government agencies to provide relief.

The governor of the affected state must make the request stating that the magnitude of the disaster is beyond the capabilities of the local and state government.

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has also asked President Bush for help in addressing the CUC power crisis, also citing the Stafford Act. He said he has already talked with FEMA and they told him the Act may apply in this instance. ***See sidebar.***

Local businessman Ed Propst and Rep. Tina Sablan have scheduled a rally for Sept. 17, where they will ask community members to sign a petition to President Bush asking for federal intervention and oversight of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

At a press conference yesterday, Sablan said the CNMI is currently undergoing a humanitarian disaster, making the Commonwealth vulnerable to a future natural disaster.

'Hold committee hearings on green energy for NMI'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A candidate for delegate has asked a U.S. congressional panel to hold hearings to determine which sustainable energy programs would best help the Commonwealth. ***See related letter on Page 11.***

Gregorio C. Sablan, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission who is now running for congressional delegate, urged the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs to take a cue from the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which recently held a field hearing on the issue of renewable energy in Alaska.

The Senate hearing was held to gather information on the energy problems in Alaska's remote villages and to explore alternative energy solutions to those problems.

According to Sablan, the energy issues in the Commonwealth are similar to those experienced in Alaska. Those issues include high fuel prices, poor infrastructure, low incomes, and unreliable power service.

"We need change—we need to find cheaper, environmentally friendly power sources and we need your help in finding the alternative power sources that will be best for our islands for the long term," Sablan said in his letter to Rep. Donna M. Christensen, chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

He noted the various alternative energy proposals that have floated in the Commonwealth for years—wind farms, solar power, geothermal energy, and nuclear power. He said these proposals have been discussed and ultimately discarded mainly because there is no solid information to help the CNMI weigh the pros and cons of each option.

"Most of the information the Commonwealth has received about alternative energy proposals has come from salespeople—and we cannot base our islands' power needs, indeed our economy and our environment, on salespeople's promises," Sablan said.

The current power crisis, he added, has made it urgent for the Commonwealth to make the switch to alternative energy. And for the CNMI to commit itself to alternative energy sources, it needs data from objective studies.

'Tinian transformer essential'

Tinian Junior Senior High School continues to function without a transformer, forcing some students to learn in classrooms without air conditioning and the library to sit empty.

Public School System Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita has asked Education Commissioner Rita Sablan to set installing a new transformer one of her goals.

Without one, school could be cancelled for the year, "unless we're going to open school under a coconut tree," Blanco-Maratita said.

When additional classrooms and a library were added on to the school a few years ago, funds for more infrastructure to manage the additional power needs were not set aside, she said.

The school does not use the library, housing books instead in a room next to an administration office.

Money needs to be reallocated immediately, she said, so a new transformer can be bought and installed as soon as possible.

"A transformer is not something you just buy off the shelf," she said. "It can take six to nine months." ***(Kristi Eaton)***

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New welcome signs unveiled at Saipan airport

By STEFAN SEBASIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Less than a month after a power outage crippled Saipan's airport and stranded scores of tourists, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Gov. Benigno Fitial unveiled a new welcome sign intended to improve visitor's experience upon arrival to the CNMI.

The sign, donated by Tasi Tours, features Fitial in a grandfatherly pose with his arms on the shoulders of two local youngsters. The beach on Mañagaha Island stretches across the background and greetings in eight languages are aligned on its left side, including Chamorro and Carolinian.

In a speech, Fitial said the sign will give tourists "a sense of our culture and heritage," later adding that "whatever international events may hold, our tourism industry can only thrive and prosper if we cater to our guests."

Tasi Tours president Kazusuke Fukuju echoed those sentiments, saying the sign comes as the CNMI's tourism industry is slowly recovering after a recent slump. The sign, he noted, will bolster visitors' expectations as they arrive on Saipan and their perception of the Commonwealth.

"This is a sincere welcome to the passengers who have just arrived," he said.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio noted that the sign is a key addition after recent efforts to improve the appearance of the airport, such as new paint on the walls to "not make it feel so much like a hospital" and will make tourists "feel welcome."

The new sign, however, comes after travelers at the airport Aug. 21 found themselves waiting for hours in terminals and on the runway without air conditioning after fuses at a sub-station near the airport blew, cutting the power. The incident prompted complaints and an apology from the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

After the unveiling, Fitial took questions from reporters and said that once the newly arrived emergency generators supplied by Aggreko are put into action today, incidents like the airport blackout will stop. The new sign, he said, will help the CNMI's image among tourists recover after the outage.

"It will help," he said. "It will definitely help and the power problem will be forever solved. We're trying to give CPA power that is continuously on."

After the Aggreko generators are switched on "those problems will be gone," he added.

The sign will appear at several of the airport's exits.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other dignitaries look at the new Welcome Board during an unveiling ceremony inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.

Good Friday poker robber gets 6 yrs in jail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo slapped a six-year prison term yesterday on an ex-convict who staged a daylight robbery at a poker arcade in Sadog Tasi last Good Friday.

Govendo sentenced Jesse Joseph Quitugua Saralu to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for a period of six years, for robbery.

Saralu was also ordered to spend two years in prison for violating his probation on a previous criminal conviction. This will run concurrently with the six-year sentence in the robbery case.

This means the defendant will spend a total of six years in prison for both cases.

Govendo ordered no credit for time served and placed Saralu on four years of probation after completing the sentence.

The judge required Saralu to pay $2,000 in restitution to Capitol Hill Poker game room, $500 fine plus courts costs and probation fees.

Saralu was directed to perform 500 hours of community service and was prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with any poker parlors in the CNMI during his probationary period.

Govendo prohibited the defendant from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages during the four-year probationary period.

In addition, Saralu was also required to participate in "ice" education talks in public and private schools in the Commonwealth.

In March 2008, the government charged the defendant with robbery, theft, and assault and battery in connection with the poker arcade robbery.

Saralu signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to robbery and agreed to probation revocation in his previous case.

Saralu robbed Myong Hee Kim at Capitol Hill Poker game room of $2,000 cash on March 21, 2008.

Two days later, police arrested him when his car crashed off the roadway on Capital Hill during a pursuit. He was not injured.

Police said that based on video footages and the poker attendant's statement, it was learned that Saralu was playing poker at the time and had asked the attendant to check the machine because of a malfunction.

As the attendant was checking the machine, Saralu choked her from behind, causing her to black out. When the attendant later regained consciousness, she was lying on the hallway near the restroom.

The attendant saw Saralu in the cashier's booth so she went straight to the nearby Amiga Market where she called police. When the officers arrived, Saralu was already gone.

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ACCORDING TO MIURA'S LAWYERS

'AGO sensationalizes, files misleading arguments'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office has included factually erroneous and legally misleading arguments to further sensationalize its role in the extradition case against Kazuyoshi Miura, according to one of Miura's lawyer, Bruce Berline.

The AGO's argument that the 61-year-old Miura had eluded prosecution "is silly," said Berline in their reply yesterday to the CNMI government's opposition to the Japanese businessman's petition for habeas corpus.

The lawyer said they did not make it an issue in their petition, but the CNMI government, through the AGO, unnecessarily continues to state that the Japanese businessman fled prosecution in California.

"Perhaps it is solely to try to embarrass Mr. Miura, but the fact of the matter is that the government's statements are baseless," Berline argued in court papers.

He pointed out that, as clearly set forth in the affidavit of Detective Rick Jackson of the Los Angeles Police Department, Miura returned to L.A. no less than six times after the shooting of his wife in November 1981.

In addition to returning to L.A. once in 1981, Miura traveled to L.A. thrice in 1982. In 1983, Miura traveled to L.A. twice—once in May and once in October, according to the lawyer.

What is also erroneous, Berline said, is the government's apparent belief that Miura even knew about the 1988 California arrest warrant prior to his 2008 arrest on Saipan.

"In short, Mr. Miura has not fled justice," he said. "The government's arguments are misleading and wrong."

Berline said the government also erroneously suggests that Miura was somehow "eluding prosecution all these years."

"There is no basis for such a statement by the government. It is well known that Mr. Miura was prosecuted, convicted, acquitted and spent many years in jail for these decades-old allegations," he said.

Moreover, Berline said, the CNMI government knows full well that the businessman did not even know the charges were pending in California "all of these years."

He said the government tends to further sensationalize its role in the case because "it really offers no rational counter-argument to Miura's claim that the State of California has waived any right to demand Miura's extradition."

"In order to protect Mr. Miura's well settled due process rights, this court should find that the State of California is now estopped from seeking his extradition from the Commonwealth," Berline added.

In its opposition, the AGO had asserted that Miura's petition is wholly without merit and presents no new issues.

Assistant Attorney General Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. said Miura's petition is "nothing more than a veiled attempt" at appealing the Superior Court's prior ruling denying his motion to dismiss.

"Petitioner has failed to raise a cognizable issue that is subject to review in a habeas corpus proceeding challenging extradition," said Warfield.

The hearing of the petition was set for today, Friday, at 10am before Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona.

L.A. Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen is expected to issue a written decision by Sept. 26 on Miura's motion to dismiss the murder and conspiracy charges.

Miura is accused of conspiring to kill his wife, who was shot when they were visiting L.A. in 1981. Miura was convicted of murder in Japan, but the verdict was overturned in 1998 by the country's high court.

He was arrested in connection with the murder while on a business trip to Saipan last February. Miura remains in jail as he fights his extradition to LA. from Saipan.

LIBRARY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sterling Brown, a student of Saipan American Education Foundation, spends his afternoon reading books inside the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

Boy, 12, hurt after car hits him

A 12-year-old boy was slightly hurt after a car hit him as he was crossing Middle Road near the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

The boy had minor abrasions on his left shin. He was later released after receiving treatment at CHC, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said no one was cited as speed and alcohol were not factors in the crash.

Ogumoro said the weather was clear and the road surface was dry at the time.

She said the boy did not use the marked crosswalk to cross the highway.

Police received a report on Wednesday at 4:43pm of an auto-pedestrian crash along Middle Road or Chalan Pale Arnold near CHC.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that a white Ford sedan, driven by 38-year-old Ricardo L. Kaipat, was heading north on the inner lane along Middle Road near the Navy Hill-CHC traffic light intersection.

The boy then crossed the highway from the northbound shoulder and was struck by the car on the inner northbound lane.

Medics responded and transported the boy to CHC for further observation and treatment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘Use fifth of DPL budget for land payments’

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers want a fifth of the Department of Public Lands’ budget reserved for payment of land compensation claims.

The proposed constitutional amendment comes in a bid to settle approximately 300 payments claims for private land the government has seized for public purposes.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero penned the proposed constitutional amendment. Twelve other lawmakers signed on as co-sponsors.

“Numerous landowners have been deprived of the use of their land for decades without just compensation,” the legislators state in the initiative. “In fact, many landowners have passed away without the benefit of being compensated for the taking of their land. However, several land claims have been settled pending monetary compensation from the government, which lacks funds for such compensation.”

The lawmakers propose to resolve the claims by mandating DPL to reserve 20 percent of its yearly operational expense to pay land compensation claims.

DPL’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 is $3 million.

Under the Constitution, the department is tasked with managing leases of public lands on behalf of the people of Northern Marianas descent. After deducting administrative costs from the collected fees, DPL transfers the balance to the Marianas Public Land Trust. MPLT then invests the money. Income earned from those investments is transferred to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero

In 2002, the CNMI government borrowed $40 million to settle land compensation claims. About $28 million of the bond proceeds was allocated to land compensation payments, and the rest went to other projects.

However, an audit showed that the now defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority distributed the funds improperly. Many of the landowners paid with the money got more than the actual value of their property. Some claims were paid out of turn while older claims were ignored.

According to DPL records, approximately 170 landowners are still waiting to be paid for a combined 283 pieces of property used for road projects. There are hundreds of other claims for land used for ponding basin, utility easements, wetlands, and historic preservation.

To become law, the legislative initiative must have the vote of three-fourths of the members of each legislative chamber, and ratified by voters in a general election.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

September 12, 2000

State of emergency not necessary-Teno
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ruled out declaration of state of emergency on Saipan, which municipal officials have sought following the damages on roads and vegetation wrought by tropical storm Saomai. But he said he had instructed public works department and other government agencies to undertake a cleanup as well as to respond to the needs of the community, including possible financial assistance.

NMI’s remittance industry has new player
With Filipinos comprising almost half of the total population of nonresidents in the Northern Marianas, a United-States based remittance company has opened a branch in the CNMI, joining the brewing competition in the money transfer industry here. U.S.-based UniTeller commenced remittance operations between Saipan and the Philippines last month, after obtaining a license from the CNMI government, bringing to nine the total number of money transfer companies serving Filipino workers on the island.

Power outages hit Saipan
Early morning storms hit Saipan yesterday with the boom of thunder and the bang of blown electrical transformers. When the heavy rains and lightning passed over the island, a series of minor power outages were reported from Chalan Kiya to As Lito, over Capitol Hill to Kagman, and through the northern section of Saipan.

September 12, 2001

Washington Rep. candidates bare views on federal issues
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce kicked off its debate series on Monday, with candidates for Washington Representative not so much debating as presenting their respective stands on several issues facing the CNMI. An estimated 200-plus audience paid $20 apiece to watch Herman R. Guerrero of the Covenant Party, Pete A. Tenorio of the Republican Party, and Agnes M. McPhetres of the Democratic Party slug it out in a series of questions that were picked out by selected students from the Northern Marianas College.

A worthy, sure-fire fundraiser
With an estimated earnings of $4,280-computed at $20 per person multiplied by the (more or less) 214 persons inside-Monday night’s debate between the candidates for Washington Representative proved to be a worthy fundraiser for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. The audience was also a virtual who’s who of notable personalities on Saipan, with an almost equal sprinkling of politicians and business leaders rubbing elbows with civic personalities.

Asiana mulls 5 additional flights to Saipan
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is negotiating with the Federal Aviation Administration to allow Asiana Airlines to increase the number of flights it can deploy between South Korea and Saipan. This was learned from CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, who disclosed that work is underway to pave the road for an additional of five nonstop Asiana flights to the Northern Marianas. Salas said the CPA is hoping to help lure more Korean visitors into the CNMI by maximizing the available air transport services offered by Asiana between Saipan and major cities and provinces in South Korea.

September 12, 2002

After Torres, chief prosecutor follows suit
Two weeks after Attorney General Robert Torres severed his official ties with the Babauta administration, the resigned official’s appointed Criminal Division Chief Prosecutor, Clyde Lemons Jr., followed suit and tendered his resignation last September 5 for reasons that he did not care to share with the public.

Manglona: No to override action on budget vetoes
With 12 line-item vetoes in the recently enacted budget for Fiscal Year 2003, Senate President Paul A. Manglona believes that, rather than overriding them, it would be better to explore alternative responses that would result in a win-win solution for everyone. Manglo-a also underscored the importance of the passage of House Bill 13-170 now referred to as Public Law 13-24 saying both the Legislature and the Executive Branch have to be commended for achieving such a significant breakthrough in the CNMI’s spending plan.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his remarks during the unveiling ceremony of the new Governor's Welcome Board inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fitial marks 9-11 anniversary in airport rites

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a speech at Saipan's international airport Thursday, Gov. Benigno Fitial marked the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, saying the violence damaged the CNMI's tourism economy and played a significant role in the federal government's push to take control of local immigration rules.

Seven years ago Thursday, terrorists hijacked four passenger jets in the skies over the United States, crashing two into the World Trade Center and a third into America's national defense headquarters, the Pentagon. A fourth jet crashed in a Pennsylvania field after passengers rallied to fight the hijackers. An estimated 3,000 people perished in the attacks, including the 19 al-Qaeda terrorists involved.

"Those events changed our world forever and contributed to the federalization of our immigration system," Fitial said before an assembled crowd.

The CNMI's tourism industry, he added, saw an immediate downturn in the aftermath, noting the attacks prompted the cancellation of flights that day and later a drop in visitor numbers.

"During those moments in 2001, we saw how quickly our local tourism industry can be affected by international events beyond our control," he said.

The wars that followed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Fitial noted, along with mounting gas prices, took a steep toll on the CNMI.

"A lot of these directly affected our flight capacity and tourism," said Fitial. "We are still struggling to rebuild our tourism industry today."

Staff with the Transportation Security Administration Thursday night commemorated the anniversary in a ceremony and held a "Freedom Walk" in Garapan earlier that day.

Meanwhile, a poll conducted by *ABC News* and the *Washington Post* released the same day reveals Americans are less worried about the prospect of a terrorist attack than in previous years. Terrorist attacks concern 64 percent of Americans, the poll says, down 10 percentage points below figures seen last year.

Samoa snags lucrative conference business

'See you in Samoa' new refrain

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—See you in Samoa.

That seems to be a slogan for local conference organisers as they look forward to hosting more international meetings.

Samoa is getting an increasing cut of the conference market in the Pacific islands, which is worth millions.

Even small to medium sized events attract six-figure sums.

The inaugural Pacific Water Conference begins here Tuesday.

"The PWC (Pacific Water Association) has over 50 confirmed participants from around the region," say organisers.

While most Pacific islands welcome such an injection of funds, the location and ease of access to a venue will sometimes swing in favour of particular countries.

While countries can't change their locations, they often invest in other services that can be just as attractive.

These include the all-important conference arrangements, phone and internet links, and air transport.

Outside the meeting room will be other attractions such as meeting the local people and a glimpse of the traditional culture.

As one example, the Pacific Ministers and heads of agriculture and forestry chose to meet this month in Apia.

The conference venue, at the Development Bank, is rigged for wireless internet while the local phone companies offer competitive deals.

Other revenue has been spent locally on services, hotels, transport, food and souvenirs.

To help delegates get a better feel for the country, the Ministry of Agriculture organised field visits and sightseeing to rural areas.

This has helped to spread the financial benefits to people and places outside the capital Apia.

26 new dengue cases reported in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Twenty-six new dengue cases have been reported at the Sigatoka and Lautoka hospitals. Out of these six people are admitted with severe hemorrhagic fever.

Divisional Medical Officer Western, Dr. Tharid Ali said those who suffer severe dengue fever tend to have unusual bleeding from the nose and gums and continuously vomit.

The six who fall in this category are currently under close supervision by doctors and nurses. He said, "The ministry has noticed that the cases are becoming more serious especially for the people in the central and western divisions as more cases are arising daily and it seems that warning and precautions given by the ministry are not being followed."

General Community Health manager Dr. Sala Saketa said dengue cases in Suva/Rewa areas were increasing on an alarming rate as well.

She advised those who are free from dengue to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes and clean compounds especially areas with stagnant water.

Dr. Ali confirmed the patients' families were being visited by health inspectors who carried out peri-focal mosquito spraying in their respective compounds.

There have been no fatal cases reported.

A one-year-old child in the West is the latest victim of the dengue epidemic.

Reports from the ministry indicate that since August this year, close to 100 dengue cases have been recorded.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Mexico's war

Many people in Washington are rightly alarmed about the rising toll of military and civilian casualties in Afghanistan. They might be surprised to learn that a roughly equal number of people have been killed so far this year in a war raging much closer to home—in Mexico. More Mexican soldiers and police officers have died fighting the country's drug gangs in the past two years than the number of U.S. and NATO troops killed battling the Taliban. Civilian casualties have been just as numerous, and as gruesome: There have been scores of beheadings, massacres of entire families and assassinations of senior officials. By the official count, kidnappings in Mexico now average 65 a month, ranking it well ahead of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The challenge facing Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who courageously declared war on the drug syndicates shortly after taking office in December 2006, gets relatively little attention here because Americans are only rarely among the casualties. But U.S. money and weapons are fueling this war. Billions of dollars from American drug users flow to the syndicates, along with thousands of weapons smuggled across the border. Congress recently approved $400 million in aid for the Mexican government, most of which will be used to better arm and equip the army. The stakes are large for the United States: not just the success of Mr. Calderon's liberal and friendly government but the survival of Mexico's democracy; not just the stability of a neighbor but the ability of the United States to control illegal immigration.

Some Mexican officials argue that the scale of the violence points to the government's success—by taking on and damaging the drug gangs, it has provoked a backlash. But most Mexicans appear to believe the government is losing the war. Tens of thousands marched in cities around the country on Aug. 30 to protest the government's failure to protect citizens. A 75-point, three-year strategy unveiled by Mr. Calderon earlier in the month, including proposals to build new prisons for drug traffickers and track gangsters through cellphones, looked underpowered to critics in the opposition and the media.

Mr. Calderon's biggest problem may be the absence of reliable forces. Most of Mexico's police are hired and managed locally; only 20,000 are federal. The army is less corrupt, but even the commitment of 40,000 troops has failed to turn the tide against the gangs. The new U.S. funding should help, but the next administration in Washington would do well to explore whether more assistance can be provided in training Mexican forces, much as U.S. advisers have helped professionalize the Colombian army. More must be done, too, to curtail the cross-border gun trafficking. Mexico's war is in its own way as critical to U.S. interests as Afghanistan's is; in both cases, a larger American commitment is needed.

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24 HR NEWS
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"WE'RE HERE, LIVE, IN ST. PAUL, WITH SENATOR JOHN McCAIN, the REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT....SENATOR McCAIN, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, HOW DREAMY IS BARACK OBAMA?"

Utils and utility

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is certainly enjoying the attention it so sorely deserves. If you were so inclined, and had the light to work with, you could probably fill an entire book with reports of Saipan's various electrical woes. Forget for now (as if you could) the high price of electricity. The unreliability of it alone fuels horror stories ranging from homeowners suffering in the heat, store owners facing ruination of perishables, the airport unable to fulfill its missions, and even the Department of Public Safety suffering from data processing problems in its detective and motor vehicle operations.

Way to go, CUC!

Indulge a tangent here: There's no use in pointing out why the CUC failed. We all know why. And we've known for quite some time, as in, over a decade. That's not news. The real news is why very few dare to speak these open secrets in public.

Anyway, the CUC's extemporaneous electrical disappearing acts are a dandy way to illustrate what we can call the "utility of availability." "Utility" is a favorite term for economists. It means, basically, something that makes you better off. A Big Mac has utility because I can eat it. My car has utility because I can drive it.

That's simple enough, but things quickly get more abstract. My car actually has utility even when I'm not driving it. Think about it: How many hours a day do you drive your car? On Saipan, let's say one hour. That means, of course, that your car is sitting, stone still, for 23 hours a day, or 96 percent of the time.

There is a story an economics professor told us in class, about a Soviet official who visited the United States. Gazing out the window of his landing airliner, the official spied a parking lot full of parked cars. As the story goes, the official remarked on how wasteful capitalism was by allowing these resources to sit unused.

What he didn't know, but what most of us do know, is that the benefits of car ownership are, largely, those of availability. Being able to travel, on a whim, is not only convenient, but makes us more productive. The U.S.S.R. didn't have many idle cars, but it had a lot of idle people.

An idle, parked car, then, certainly does have utility to its owner. Of course, it has costs, too, which is why if you lived in New York or Hong Kong, you might just give up and take taxis.

How often do you use your bed? It sits idle 66 percent of the time. How about your telephone? It's probably idle 98 percent of the time. Your toaster? Idle 99.0 percent of the time. So, would you rather own these, and let them be idle in your absence, or, perhaps, rent them only when you need them from the guy down the street? For most of us, the choice is obvious.

Even things we never use have utility. The local hospital's emergency room, for example. I've never used it. But it has utility to me because I know that if some injury strikes me, I have a place to go. That's a lot more sensible than trying to build my own hospital after I start bleeding.

Many studies in economics, or explanations of it, use the term "utils" to measure the utility (in other words, value, usefulness, goodness, etc.) of something. Why not use "dollars" instead of "utils"? Well, value is a far more fundamental concept than mere money. Closing down the hospital won't cost me any money, but it will cost me utility; this is one good way to show, by the way, that accounting (which counts dollars) and economics (which is concerned with theoretical utils) are entirely different fields, and, basically, have nothing to do with each other.

Of course, "utility" in common parlance means, well, just what the CUC sorely lacks, which brings us full circle. Much of the utility of electrical service is that it's there (in theory) for your use whenever you want it, which is to say, it's available 24/7. This is why the CUC sucks squared; not only are the prices per kilowatt absurd, but the kilowatts themselves aren't even available at the beck and call of the customer.

This is why the quality of life in the CNMI is sliding down, even if such invisible things as "utils" can't really be tallied in dollar terms.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

A call for congressional hearing on NMI power crisis

To Rep. Donna M. Christensen
Chairwoman, House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recently held a field hearing on the issue of sustainable energy in Alaska. The hearing was held in order to determine what energy problems exist in Alaska's remote villages, and what sort of investment, education, and conservation would alleviate these problems. Testimony at this hearing showed a remarkable parallel between the energy problems plaguing Alaska's remote native villages, and the energy problems plaguing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

American Pacific Islanders in the CNMI live in remote islands that are important to us because our culture and our history is here. But, like Alaska's remote villages, we suffer from staggeringly high fuel prices, along with poor infrastructure, and low incomes. We suffer daily power outages, unaffordable high fuel bills, and a broken power infrastructure.

We need change—we need to find cheaper, environmentally-friendly power sources and we need your help in finding the alternative power sources that will be best for our islands for the long term. We ask you to hold hearings in order to determine which sustainable energy programs would best help our islands find renewable, and affordable, alternative sources of energy.

We in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands live on islands where the median income is more than $30,000 lower than the U.S. median family income. Our fuel prices, meanwhile, are among the highest in the nation—yet while we pay higher rates for our fuel than most other American jurisdiction, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., our government-run power plant, uses over-25-year-old broken and unfixable generators which must be shut down for no fewer than two hours per day, at times for 12 hours per day, leaving our people—as well as our offices and businesses - without power.

The CNMI's power crisis will not end until alternative sources of energy—particularly green, renewable energy—are brought into general use and replace the CNMI's reliance on CUC's increasingly expensive, increasingly undependable oil-driven engines.

The staggeringly high cost of energy, combined with the daily power outages, has caused tremendous suffering in the Commonwealth. Our people suffer without dependable power at home, in schools and at work—and investors who might otherwise bring business to these islands are unwilling to invest money in a place without affordable, dependable electricity. Additionally, using oil to generate power is hostile to the environment, and causes global warming.

For years, various alternative energy proposals have floated around the island—wind farms, solar power, geothermal energy, nuclear power, to name but a few. These proposals have been discussed and debated and ultimately discarded—chief among the reasons that none has been adopted is the lack of good, solid, dependable information which would help the CNMI decide which of the alternative energy options would provide the Commonwealth with the clean, dependable, affordable energy we need both for our residents and for businesses. Most of the information the Commonwealth has received about alternative energy proposals has come from salespeople—and we cannot base our islands' power needs, indeed our economy and our environment, on salespeople's promises.

We need alternative energy. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation cannot supply the island with dependable, affordable power—and we need dependable, affordable power. Thus the time is right for the CNMI to stop discussing alternative energy sources, and to commit itself to alternative energy sources. To do that in an intelligent way, we need data and we need serious, objective studies which will guide our commitment. We need to know that the alternative energy sources we invest in will provide us the clean, dependable, affordable power that the Commonwealth needs for the long term, lest we find ourselves ensnared in another power crisis soon after this one.

We therefore ask your Subcommittee on Insular Affairs to hold hearings *to determine the effects of high fuel prices in the CNMI and to explore sustainable energy solutions that include renewable energy investments, as well as energy efficiency and conservation* in the CNMI. We need new power sources, and we need your help in determining which alternative energy sources will be best for our beloved islands.

Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

A plea for federal help with CUC crisis

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to you out of a grave concern for the people of Saipan of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands who have been suffering from frequent recurring power outages coupled with the highest electrical utility rates in the country. Although this problem has not been caused by natural disaster, the result is the same and the persistent lack of electric power is resulting in a looming threat to public health and deepening economic depression. During power outages, water cannot be pumped into homes, sewage treatment plants cannot operate, food and medicines cannot be kept at safe temperatures, and businesses cease to function.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has not been able to meet daily peak demand for more than a year, and recently has not been able to generate less than half of the daily power requirement. At the same time there has only been a significant involuntary reduction in demand as more than 800 households have been forced to disconnect and many businesses closed because they simply cannot afford to pay the almost .50 a kilowatt per hour utility rate charged by CUC. The high power rates are a result of a combination of high operating costs, old and inefficient generators, and high diesel fuel costs resulting from the exorbitant cost of crude oil and high shipping costs.

CNMI Governor, the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, has exhausted CIP funding earmarked for vitally needed infrastructure attempting to repair Saipan's primary generators over the past year; however, they continue to fail and the situation grows worse everyday.

This letter is being sent in desperation. I know fully well that it is the responsibility of the Governor to request federal disaster assistance, but due to his reluctance and inaction to do so, I am appealing to you for assistance. Governor Fitial has declared a disaster emergency and I am attaching a copy of that declaration for you information and review.

Therefore, Mr. President, on behalf of your fellow American citizens residing in the CNMI and as their duly elected representative here in Washington, I respectfully request assistance in not only assessing the scope and magnitude of this catastrophe, but also in finding an immediate and timely resolution to this urgent humanitarian crisis.

Pedro A. Tenorio
CNMI Resident Representative

Let the people own CUC

My name is Frederick Prosser. I have been associated with Saipan since 1960. My wife and I came here to live in January 1991. I got a job at CUC where I worked until July 2004. I want to make it very clear that the opinions and ideas that I am going to put forth here are mine and mine alone.

Most of the residents of Saipan believe that this mess with CUC came to be as a result of high fuel prices. I say no. This whole mess was very well planned and carried out. I want to go back to 2000.

Every time the board of directors meet, one of the items discussed was how could they privatize the power plant. Well, the fact was that they could not do it. The power plant was making too much money, so they just hid and wait. When the price of fuel started going up, they saw their chance. They used the fuel prices as an excuse to run the power plant into the ground. Now they could openly try to privatize the plant. Do not be fooled; the members of the board are not acting alone. There are several very influential men working with them. When they get the job done, they all stand to make a lot of money.

So what do we do? First, block privatization at all cost. Secondly, hold people accountable for what has been done. There have been three decisions made that have hurt CUC. First was the change in fuel from heavy oil to diesel. We all know who made that decision. Second was the removal of the electronic reclosures from the power distribution system. This left the power plant without any protection. Now every time there is a problem with any part of the distribution system, it is going to trip the power plant offline and we have "islandwide power outage." It also increases the risk of damage to a generator (Who made this decision?). Third, the use of non-treated water to cool the engines in the power plant. The water used to cool those engines is supposed to be purified water that will not let slag deposit in the engines blocks, the pipes to and from the radiators and the radiators themselves. OK, what is slag? Take a pan and fill it with CUC water. Let most of the water boil off. All the white deposit on the inside of the pan is slag. That is what is building up in the cooling systems in the power plant every day now. (Who made this decision?) We need to know who made these decisions and hold them accountable for their actions.

Let's go back to privatization. If we let the governor do what he wants to do, I will give odds that an off-island company will end up with the power plant. They will go in and clean up the mess and get the plant back on its feet and they will make money. But guess what, all the money will go off-island.

How do we stop this? There is a way. We the residents of the island can group together and buy the plant. We have the expertise and leadership on the island to clean this mess up and we can make money on it. We will need the help of a corporate lawyer. We will have to establish the true value of the plant as it is right now. Then we can sell shares to the residents of the island and get control of our power.

Remember one thing. Whoever controls the power controls the island. Do we want that power in the hands of an off island company?

Senator Pete Reyes, for years I have had a fair amount of respect for you. Well, no longer. Your attack on Rep. Tina Sablan was totally out of line. For lawmakers to have a difference of opinions is a good thing. But personal attacks are not part of lawmaking. Personally, on the bill in question (your pet projects) that you did not have money to pay for, I stand with Rep. Sablan.

As for the comment that Rep. Sablan needs to get on the train or be left behind, did anyone ever stop to think that she does not want to get on that train? Personally, I hope that all the good old boys in the Legislature stay on that train. That train is headed to Banzai Cliff and there will not be a stop at the end of line. Have a nice ride. Wake up, times are changing. You are going to have to answer for what you do in the future.

Frederick Prosser

Stiffer sentence vs thieves

While it disgust me to see the never-ending reports on home break-ins and other thefts, the recent theft of Ms. Marchitti's guitar and jewelry, which had much sentimental value to her, is really sickening. A parent, sibling, spouse, or friend has certainly seen these items in the possession of the thief. Does not one of them have the decency to report it to the police, or at the very least force this idiot to return the items? I think I know the answer to that.

It is time for the Legislature to pass a very stiff mandatory sentencing law for stealing. Not three strikes and you're out, but one strike and you're out. A first conviction for stealing should require a mandatory jail term, perhaps a period as short as three months. This would hopefully get the attention of the younger thieves, and maybe they might consider another career. A second conviction should result in a minimum one-year incarceration. For three convictions, at least five years. Anyone convicted of four or more theft cases should be considered a habitual criminal and locked up for at least 10 years.

Of course this would be expensive, but what are the costs that DPS and the court system have to bear now in order to deal with this problem? Please Legislature, someone do something.

Herminia Matsumo Fusco
Capital Hill, Saipan

Kudos goes to Mr. Bennett

In reference to the proposed congressional delegate candidates test, I think that what Mr. Bennett has done to challenge the delegates is actually pretty amazing. Why don't we see what the delegates have to say? I, for one, am tired of the old family and play-it-safe politics. Why don't people just choose the *best* so that when the delegates come to Washington, we won't be represented by fools! This isn't a game and this isn't a stupid popularity contest! This may be our islands' last hope for a better future. Don't we want our island to have a better future? Therefore, Mr. Bennett, thank you. Thank you for standing up for us.

Losana Kapileo
Lakewood, Washington

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

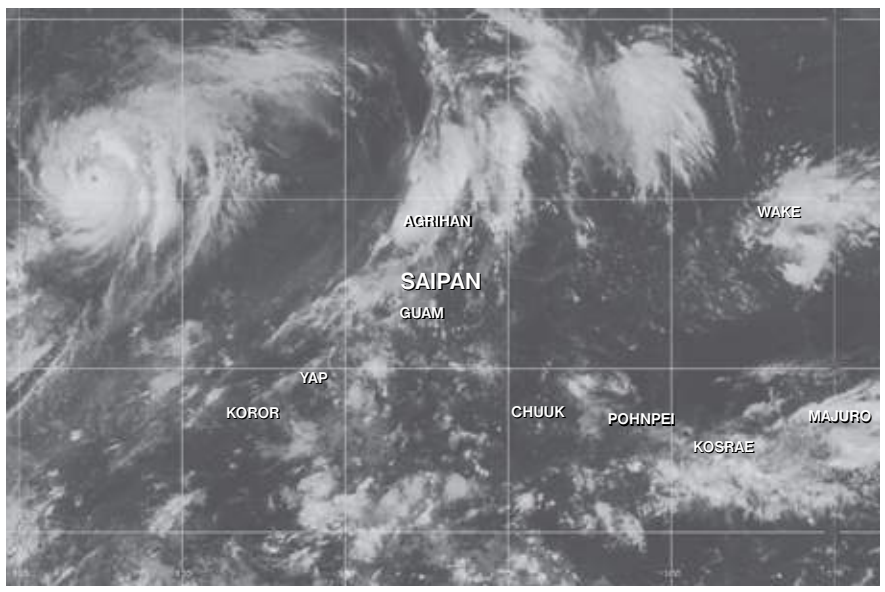
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼70
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼62
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲92	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Rain	▲66	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲69	▼57
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲66	▼51
Pusan	Showers	▲78	▼73
Rome	Cloudy	▲86	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲79	▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼64
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence is coupled with low-level convergent winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Saipan between 17N and 25N from 143E to 151E. A weak upper-level low is centered north of the discussion area at 28N156E. Upper-level divergence south of the low is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 22N and 25N from 156E to 161E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward of Wake Island from 20N170E to 10N160E to 10N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Wake Island between 15N and 21N from 166E to 172E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 1N and 6N from 160E to 170E and between 3N and 9N from 160E to 175E. This area includes Kosrae and Majuro. Scattered showers are found southeast of Koror and Yap between the equator and 4N from 137E to 145E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:44AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:40PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:05AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:09PM	3:00AM
Saturday	4:49PM	3:53AM
Sunday	5:28PM	4:45AM
Monday	6:06PM	5:38AM
Tuesday	6:46PM	6:31AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letters to the Editor

Pew is what Pew does

"Let's focus on the opportunities and benefits such a monument might bring" suggested Mr. Jay Nelson in his letter to the editor dated Sept. 8. 2008. The Director of the Ocean Legacy Program (Pew Environment Group) then proceeded to allege that I have "*consistently mischaracterized the statements and role of the Pew Environment Group.*"

He goes on to claim my letters focus on issues other than the "*potential benefit to the CNMI*" and implies that my comments are "*unhelpful and unproductive.*" Quite the contrary Mr. Nelson, I believe my letters offer another perspective on Pew's monument plans.

In each of my letters I attempt to provide substantiated facts to support the conclusions that I draw, whether they address issues I may have directly with the Pew proposal, information being disseminated by Pew representatives, or with the Pew organization. You cry foul when the Pew Environment Group receives criticism, yet your supporters personally castigate those of us in the local blogs and newspapers that happen to have a differing opinion. Need I have to remind you of the now infamous "*forces of evil*" e-mail?

Mr. Nelson, you should understand that it was Pew who came uninvited to "my house." It was Pew who started pushing their plans to convert 115,000 square miles of *our* EEZ into a "no-take" marine protected area for President Bush's "Blue Legacy." It was Pew that has taken the forefront in forcing this monument issue on us even after the majority of the CNMI government rejected your proposal. And finally, it was Pew who promised us that the president wasn't going to pursue a monument that was controversial, yet the proposed Marianas monument was still short-listed. I believe the people of the Marianas deserve to know as much about the Pew Environment Group, as the message you are delivering. You suggest that I not attack the messenger, but in our case the message and the messenger are one and the same.

The people of the Marianas deserve to know both sides of the issues, not just "*focus on the opportunities and benefits such a monument might bring."* I have spent a considerable amount of time and effort investigating the details and potential repercussions of the Pew monument proposal. It is my opinion that the perceived benefits do not outweigh the complete and permanent loss of resource management control to the federal government. You may not understand this, but sometimes it's not all about the money. I believe it is prudent for the people of the Northern Marianas to keep the *choice* of whether to pursue fishing activities or explore oil, gas, and mineral extraction rights throughout their entire EEZ. Despite the indigenous peoples' cultural control over these waters for the past thousand years or so, designation of a national monument will require written permission from the federal government before entering these same waters. Even though I am not indigenous, I find this extremely insulting.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

Lawmakers worth voting for

We have learned there are only three members of the House of Representatives worth voting for and retaining in public office after the House passed the resolution on Wednesday against the proposed Marianas Trench Marine Monument. The Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument would like to thank these representatives. They are to be commended for their intelligence, willingness to learn about the issues, integrity, bravery, bearers, and guardians of the public trust. They nobly serve in public office with the duty to represent the people who elected them and not cater to special interests. They are in alphabetical order: Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, and Ed Salas. They all get an A+ for trying to improve the economy, increase tourism, foster research, provide more educational opportunities, bring jobs, and guaranteed federal dollars to the CNMI.

What are the other 15 so-called representatives doing to improve the lives of the people of the CNMI? One can only guess who the rest represent (Wespac); it is certainly not the people.

I know who I am voting for come Election Day. I am voting for Tina, Heinz, and Ed. I can also vote for Heinz, Tina, and Ed. Finally, I am going to vote for Ed, Tina, and Heinz. Thank you for taking an interest in the future well-being of the CNMI!

Ken Kramer
Friends of the MTMM

Let there be light

I, along with Ed Propst, are inviting the public to join in for the protest to be held on Sept. 17, 2008 at 5:30pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. Please bring a candle and wear a black shirt to represent darkness.

Let's honor our ancestors by showing action and not just talk. Let's stop talking about the government and start doing something about it. We must not suffer anymore. We must not let our children suffer anymore. It is a call to action for the betterment of society.

We are calling every father, mother, and child. Calling on all small and large business owners, the employed or unemployed. All types of religious groups, retirees, all people from Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia. All people from different walks of life to stand up against the government's, CUC's, and lawmakers' bad decision-making policies. We are calling on the Republicans, Democrats, Reform, and Covenant parties to participate.

We have forgiven the Covenant voters for they did not know they were going to be deceived. Let's make the right choices by joining in and make history together. I understand you were promised better times. But you know what? We can make things better by standing up against corruption. We must move forward before the light gets any dimmer. We are calling on people from all over the globe that are residing here in the CNMI that you are welcome to join. Every single one of us is feeling the pinch in their pockets.

Tinian and Rota, we are here to represent you for we are brothers and sisters suffering on a daily basis. We are one CNMI. This is a cause that will expose this tiny island to the rest of the world that we are victims of corruption. It is time for our voices to be heard once and for all. We can no longer tolerate this type of abuse on innocent people. We are all in this together to open up a new chapter in the CNMI's history for a better tomorrow. We must all unite and set aside differences for this is something that we all agree on to fight for.

To the general public: We are not betraying the local government. We are showing the world that our local government has betrayed us. It's time to kick doors down. To move two steps forward and not 10 steps back. We will be heard and we will be helped. No one ever said that the generators are rent-to-own. No one ever said there will always be money to pay Aggreko. Let's be 10,000-strong. Let there be light!

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

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Letters to the Editor

Thanks but no thanks politics

Why are people speaking up for a candidate when I asked the candidates to speak for themselves? They should know that what they say a candidate will do has no weight and no meaning to informed voters. They should know that attacking me for promoting a public forum is not in the best interest of their candidate—the two candidates that did dare to attack me and had other people attack me in the news didn't win. I'm performing a public service and I'm sure people can read between the lines to see the bias in their details. It really defies common sense to complain about someone asking the candidates to tell all the people "what they will do and how they will get it done" but there's always going to be one "complainer." I also invited the candidates, not their third party cheer leaders, to write in the Opinion section.

I'm not publicly supporting any candidate and it is up to the people to get informed; I'm just helping them. The complainer for one candidate about the articles I have proposed shouldn't get mad at me because I am making them think and research all the candidates. That is what everyone should be doing. The complainer should already know who the two candidates are who have taken a public political stance for the people in the news—so don't blame me, get informed. The truth is also better revealed when you discover it for yourself, so do your job as a citizen and find out who is who among the candidates.

I do know that we shouldn't be voting based on "character reference" letters to the editor. These character reference letters won't mean anything to the people if they are informed. To the people not running for office who attack me and promote their candidate—thanks but no thanks to your politics; it's your candidate's responsibility. You can't save him from the challenge I have posed and the editors are in full support of the three questions I'm asking the candidates. The cheerleaders really need to get their candidates to turn in their articles if they really want them elected because I fully intend to inform the public about every candidate who fails the simple test of writing a letter to the people telling them what they plan to do and how.

Anyone with an ounce of common sense knows that nine candidates are ridiculous. The election process is supposed to be determined by a majority vote and with nine people running, it is highly possible to win with less than 2,000 votes, making the desires of the majority meaningless. People have common sense and they know all nine people are not legitimate candidates. We just elected a governor that used the same lucky politics and numbers game to get elected and now look what it got us—and the complainer thinks its good we have nine. This is about the politics of the candidates—not Ambrose. This is about the majority electing the best person—not Ambrose. This is about the platforms and ability of candidates to deliver—not Ambrose. This is about the candidates' track record or lack of record—not Ambrose. This is also not about someone speaking up for a candidate or their limited political gatherings, it's about the candidates informing the people about their intentions and their politics in the largest public forum we have access to in the CNMI—the newspapers.

Anyone who thinks what I'm doing is ridiculous really doesn't understand the purpose of the democratic process and how it should be conducted. This is not Fox News where the host and contributors persuade the public—this is all about the candidates and no one else. I proposed this public forum and the editors are supporting me and making sure it is a fair process so the cheerleaders really need to stay out of this forum and stop trying to sabotage the process. Let the candidates speak for themselves as they will have to do in Washington!

I do want to thank the complainer for reminding us of how the old politics of the CNMI used to be and for giving me the opportunity get the record straight. I'm sure it will be obvious that I am just trying to help people determine the best candidate for Congress. I can say with a high level of confidence to the complainer that many people are saying thanks but no thanks to your politics of bias. The traditional persuasive politics with no substance do not apply nor do they have any effect on informed people with common sense—we have all learned to find out for ourselves.

It also looks like the people may be subjected to a host of character reference letters to the editor after this because the cheerleaders are already two for two in the two days since I issued the challenge to all the delegates. The editor might get overrun but I'm hoping the editors will stop printing any of these biased character reference letters especially since the general public is really waiting to hear from the candidates and not their cheerleaders. We obviously have a big problem when a citizen can't ask people seeking public office to explain themselves to the public without being attacked. Attacking me clearly defies common sense and it more than likely took away some of your candidates votes. I haven't said one bad thing about any candidate and I have only brought out the public facts about the candidates that should have already been known. I am only trying to inform people and make the process work by yielding a majority decision in November like it should. It is absolutely ridiculous that someone would have the nerve to try and give me a hard time for promoting the biggest and most genuine public forum possible for all the candidates and all the people.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

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POLLING SITES

Precinct Election at Public Schools

Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria (Precinct 1)
Marianas High School Cafeteria (P1; P2; P3; & P4)
Kagman High School Cafeteria (P1 and P4)
Tinian Jr./Sr. High School (Precinct 5)
Rota High School (Precinct 6)

Northern Marianas College's Student Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4) 8:00am – 6:00pm
Multi Purpose Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4) 8:00am – 6:00pm

Precinct 1:
Koblerville Youth Learning Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 2:
House of Manhoben (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 3:
Gualo Rai Learning Center (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 4:
Tanapag Youth Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS

Thanks for the support

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the people of Tinian for taking time to come to the first gathering of my candidacy for the U.S Delegate on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008. Also a special thank you to all my supporters here on Tinian, and all the Tinian leadership for their help, their donations, and their show of support during Saturday's event.

I want to emphasize to all our supporters in the CNMI that this historical event for us in the CNMI must not be taken lightly. We encourage everyone to come out and vote not only because it is your right but because we really do need a strong voice and strong representation in Washington. We need help from the federal government, and we need to reaffirm our relationship as outlined in our Covenant. We need a delegate with conviction and a strong advocate to our cause and needs. I feel that I can provide that kind of leadership and I ask everyone for their support and vote of confidence.

Again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who helped to make Saturday's event a success. *Un dangkulu na si yu'us maase.* I would also like to thank the Democratic Party officials from Rota and Saipan who took time to be with us during this gathering.

David M. Cing
Tinian

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Girls Attitude Print Tees
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Ladies Baby Phat JR Tees Assorted
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Boys Nylon Socks (4-6) Assorted
$1.49

Nipple Clear First Flow Evenflow
$3.99

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$8.99

Alberto VO5 Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz.
$1.59

Scope Mouthwash 500ml.
$3.99

Daily Renewal Gel or Hair Spray
$2.69

Chef's 10 pc Stainless Steel Steak Knife
$6.99

Mirro 4.2 Qrt Pressure Cooker
$38.99

Zojirushi 5.5 cup Rice Coker
$83.99

Toastmaster 2 SCTN Sandwich Maker
$17.99

Proctor Silex Steam Iron
$15.49

Toastmaster 12 Cup Coffeemaker
$21.99

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$6.99

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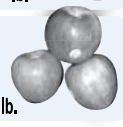
U.S. Bosc Pears $1.75 lb.

U.S. Yelow Nectarine $1.35 lb.

U.S. Fuji Apples $1.69 lb.



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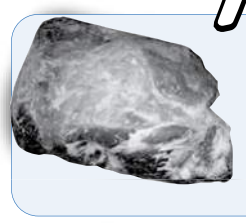
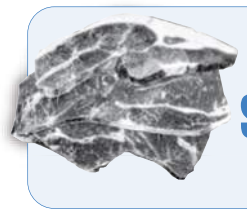
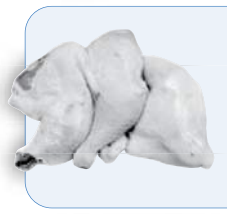


New Zealand Boneless Beef Chd
$1.99 /lb.

New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99



New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.



Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$19.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$19.99 /cs.

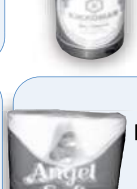
New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$34.99 /bg.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.98 /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.



Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
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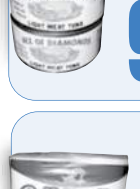
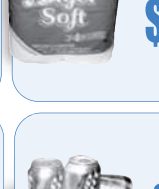
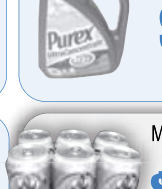
Purex Ultra Concentrated Laundry Detergent. 5oz. Any Scent
$4.99 /ea.



Cottonelle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.69 /ea



Bud Family Beer Can
$25.99 /cs.
$13.00 12pk.



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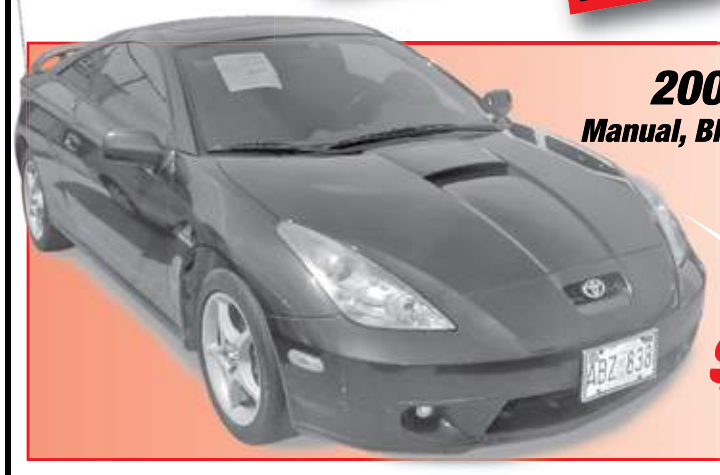
SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



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R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,999	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-058T	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	44445	MAROON	ACA-700	21,999	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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2*4*14 Utility regular	$5.30	2*4*14 Utility treated	$7.70
2*4*16 Utility regular	$6.00	2*4*16 Utility treated	$8.70
2*4*18 Utility regular	$6.70	2*4*18 Utility treated	$9.70
2*4*20 Utility regular	$7.20	2*4*20 Utility treated	$10.70
2*6*12 Utility regular	$6.90	2*6*12 Utility treated	$10.20
2*6*14 Utility regular	$7.90	2*6*14 Utility treated	$12.20
2*6*16 Utility regular	$8.90	2*6*16 Utility treated	$14.20
2*6*18 Utility regular	$9.90	2*6*18 Utility treated	$15.20
2*6*20 Utility regular	$10.90	2*6*20 Utility treated	$17.20
2*6*18 Dougalas regular	$12.90	2*6*20 Dougalas Treated	$18.90

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$48.00/4Gals

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Letter to the Editor

Address real problems

I just want to express my disappointment with the governor for once more trying to improve government services by prioritizing diminutive issues in government functions and operations. My motivation for writing this letter stems from a memorandum he sent to all department heads on the subject of "No Smoking and Chewing Betel Nut Policy," probably reissued at the recommendation of the senior policy adviser, Mr. Ray Mafnas.

It is disturbing that at a time such as this, with the economic depression, incompetence in utility services, and the complete failure to pass a budget for soon-to-be two consecutive years, smoking and chewing on government premises supersedes all these critical concerns. At a time when *we* are all restricted to approximately three or less hours of utilities per day, the governor thinks enforcing the no smoking and chewing in government offices is an urgent and remarkable action? It has always been enforced, where has he been? If the problem is up on that Hill, then address it there. Everyone knows it's prohibited in government buildings. Is he running out of ideas and finally giving up on his duties and responsibilities to the people, thereby diverting attention to minute issues such as this?

I hope the majority of government employees agree with me when I say that we perform our best as frontline, clerical, and administrative personnel but we only get the very minimal annual salaries. Yet we ensure that the tasks we perform are complete and are not compounded on our desks. On the other hand, what does the governor have to say about each and every one of his Cabinet members, those whom he just reminded could not even control smoking and chewing in their office? What have they accomplished other than hiring their relatives, friends, or friends of their relatives with enormous salaries? What can the governor say about the CUC crisis? Sept. 16 is fast approaching and I speak for myself when I say it seems more like an administration fantasy than reality; I hope others agree with me.

This governor is so fast to insult, attack, and ruin the morale of the very people who perform the work to keep this government functioning, yet what has he contributed? He is even quick, brave, and bold enough to sue the federal government, for what? For the CNMI misusing federal funds to purchase Rydlyme? Maybe Charles can enlighten us all of the governor's plans for a better "Better Times."

I think the average government employee deserves better than to be ridiculed about their personal habits. As a matter of fact, I think they should be commended for doing their job properly and ethically, unlike those that have corrupted, conspired, converted, and cheated the community, all the while remaining "public servants." I guess the difference between the "c" proponents and the average government employee is the extremely high salaries they receive and the backup generators at their homes.

The truth of the matter is, the only reason elected leaders are up there is because the voting people, not the special status-seeking nonresident workers, trusted them to protect their rights and interests. Unfortunately, this was misconstrued as their right to fill their pockets at the government's expense and their opportunity to satisfy their personal interests. Other than Greg Cruz's bickering on the outside, no one up there is willing to stand on their own to defend the people, and when they do they're told to stop "bitching" and learn from the others, the others who got us in this terrible mess to begin with. Learn to be completely illogical, inflict suffering on your community members, the business sector, ruin the tourism industry, and then instill the modus operandi of "business as usual"...that is the Commonwealth government.

Anyone beg to differ?

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

A solution to keep track of lawmakers' allowances

In reference to the Rota and Tinian lawmakers' monthly subsidies (otherwise known as official representation, also known by our *man'amko* for both islands as O.R.: As a former station supervisor for Northwest Airlines (Saipan), one solution to the unaccounted/unaudited subsidies my company thought of is to issue a corporate card allowing me use whenever I travel on official trips. The card itself is programmed in that it only allows me to use it for hotel, restaurant, car rental, and gas expenses. Purchases in bars, department stores, and Ace Hardware are not allowable. If I should choose to use it on a personal basis other than official, then I will be held accountable.

To my knowledge, CNMI PSS is using the same concept to reduce cost and for greater accountability. It is much better to keep track of all charges on it, the card will be more visible, and it can be audited instantly. I think this will be the solution for all of our CNMI citizens who may be in doubt, and the lawmakers in question can rest easily. *Biba* Marianas!

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MIFICPA bowling tourney on Sept. 14

Members of the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will host a bowling tournament this Sept. 14 at the Capital Bowling Center.

According to the club's public information officer Benjie Ganapin, the competition will be open to MIFICPA members and non-members alike.

The one-day tournament starts at 1pm and those interested need to e-mail or call organizers in advance to allow MIFICPA to assign players into groups. Cost to enter is free of charge.

Interested players should email their names to MIFICPA president Irene Santiago at irene_santiago@shirleyscoffeeshop-saipan.com or to Benjie Ganapin at bhnjit@yahoo.com. They can also call Lois at 235-9322 or Rene at 234-0906. Entries must be in on or before the Sept. 12 cut-off date.

MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts, to be sold for $5. ***(PR)***

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The people of Kagman and Precinct 5 would like to get to know all the candidates for the CNMI Delegate position. The community will be having a public forum on Sept. 20 at 5pm at the Kagman Community Center. It will be hosted by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand.

If you are interested in meeting with the Kagman and Precinct 5 public, contact the Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres at balutan@balutanbox.com for more info. ***(PR)***

'Meet John Davis' forum

There will be a public forum for the community to meet with John H. Davis Jr., who is a candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress.

The forum will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, 4:30pm - 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"You are invited to meet with John H. Davis, Jr., listen to his views on what he can offer as your Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and join in the discussion with any questions or concerns that you may have."

Contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 for additional information. ***(PR)***

Pacific Winds to begin 15th season

The Saipan Pacific Winds, a local music group, announces that it will be starting rehearsals for its 15th season this Sept. 15, Monday, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Saipan Southern High School Band Room. All interested musicians may attend or contact Will DeWitt at 235-1087 or 237-3722 for more information. ***(PR)***

Meeting for class action lawsuit

There will be a meeting for those who submitted a copy of their unpaid administrative orders tomorrow, Sept. 13, 2008, 6pm at the Amphitheater of the American Memorial Park. Lawyer Robert Myers Jr. is expected to be there to discuss the details of the planned class action lawsuit to pursue collection from the bonding companies.

If you have not submitted and you want to be part of this class action, you may also attend the meeting. Please bring a copy of your administrative order, which should be issued within six years to Sept. 30, 2008.

For more information, e-mail Irene Tantiado at irenebdi@yahoo.com or call 285 7717 after 5pm. Those attending are requested to come on time. ***(PR)***

United Workers Movement, NMI induction, fellowship

The United Workers Movement, NMI is holding an induction for its first set of officers and fellowship on Sept. 14, 2008 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. There will be parlor games for children starting at 2pm. Program is set at 3pm. Dinner and fellowship will commence after the program.

All workers, resident and foreign national, are invited to join this gathering.

For more details, email Irene Tantiado at irenebdi@yahoo.com or call 285 7717 after 5pm or Jane Curioso at janetcurioso398@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Casting call for play

Come one! Come all! Come to a casting call this Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-5pm at Marianas High School room 101-D. CNMI Friends of the Arts will be holding auditions for Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*.

Simon, who is best known for *The Odd Couple*, wrote *The Good Doctor* as a series of scenes and the skits in the comedic style of Anton Chekhov.

For more information, call Alexa Conner at 285-9544. There are parts for everyone, young and old, but please don't be younger then 16 or older then 109. ***(PR)***

CREAM hosts mock delegate polls tomorrow

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, CREAM, will conduct a mock election for the CNMI delegate tomorrow, Sept. 13, 2008.

Ballot specimens are now being distributed to qualified U.S. ethnic minority citizens to vote and choose their favored candidate.

The coalition group will be stationed at the Kilili pavilion on Saturday afternoon, 3pm to 6pm to receive filled-up ballots from its members and other ethnic nationalities who would like to participate in this voting exercise.

As agreed after their deliberation in the meeting on Sept. 6, 2008, at the Buniag (Alanars) Compound, only the top four vote getters will be invited by CREAM to their planned forum to listen, understand, compare, digest, approve and adopt their platforms and program of representation in the U.S. Congress that will benefit the citizenry of the Commonwealth, including the U.S. ethnic minorities and long-time resident contract workers.

For more details and request for ballots, call the following: Gus Loste, 2353027; Emi Pamintuan, 4830727; Pastor Gagarin, 2877478; Ed Caranzo, 2878476 and Wllie Wagan, 2874474 or 288-4113. ***(PR)***

DAY'S END

An Oleai Elementary School student peeks through the window of his school bus before departing the school premises yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2008
Carmen Safeway
SUPERMARKET
OPEN DAILY
6:00AM
(MONDAY-SUNDAY)
September Specials
FROZEN FOOD
Beef Striploin Steak (US Choice) $9.90 /lb.
Corned Beef Brisket $1.99 /lb.
Beef Tendons $1.99 /lb.
Pork Whole Leg Bone-In $1.89 /lb.
Stewing Chicken $1.19 /lb.
Scallop 20/30 $9.50 /ea.
Cooked Octopus Japan $4.95 /lb.
Salted Mackerel Japan $3.99 /lb.
PRODUCE
Potato Brown $1.09 /lb.
Cabbage Green 79¢ /lb.
Garlic Netted $1.47 /lb.
US Orange 91¢ /lb.
Broccoli Crown $1.59 /lb.
US Peanuts $2.03 /lb.
GROCERIES
Campbell's Cream of Mushroom 26 oz. $2.25 /ea.
Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz $2.06 /ea.
Black Label Luncheon Loaf 12 oz. $1.62 /ea.
Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. $1.57 /ea.
Takeya Miso Tokujyo 500g Japan $2.88 /ea.
Takeya Tokujyo Miso 1 kg. $4.59 /ea.
Western Family Vinegar 16 oz. $1.26 /ea.
Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. $6.20 /ea.
Spam Regular 7 oz. $1.70 /ea.
Vlasic Kosher Whole 1 Gal. $5.52 /ea.
Hormel Pigs Feet 14 oz. $2.95 /ea.
Soft & Gentle Tissue 12 ct. $4.75 /ea.
Sentinel Cotton Balls 20 ct. $2.34 /ea.
Niagara Spray Original 15 oz. $1.43 /ea.
THE LIQUOR SHOPPE
Stolichnaya Vodka 750 ml. $17.33 /ea.
Gin Perez Barquero 1 Ltr. $14.27 /ea.
Gekke Karoyaka Jyunmai 2Ltr. Japan $16.40 /ea.
Gekke Plumwine 500 ml. $7.69 /ea.
Gekke Zipang Sake 250 ml. $5.35 /ea.
WIN! WEEKLY $25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR OWN FABRIC SHOPPING BAG
The Largest Selection of Fine Wine, Liquor & Beer
Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm
*Limited Quantities and While Supplies Last! • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Foodstamp Shoppers Welcome • We are not responsible for typographical errors.

Island Snapshots

PROTEST ACTION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Edward T. Salas, Rep. Tina Sablan and local businessman Edwin Propst talk to the media during Wednesday's press conference addressing the protest action set for Sept. 17 at 5:30pm at the Garapan Fishing Base against the Fitial administration and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over the daily blackouts on Saipan.

HOUSE DEBATE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios gestures as he delivers his remarks on the Pew monument proposal during an intense session on Capital Hill Wednesday.

ROTARY PRESENTATION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Divya Sharma listens to the questions of members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during her presentation about palliative care and hospice care at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant Tuesday. Also in photo is Rotary Club of Saipan president-elect for 2009-2010 Kim Forrester.

DIABETES SUMMIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Island Food Community of Pohnpei nutritionist Lois Englberger delivers her presentation to health representatives from the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands during the first Pacific Summit on Diabetes at the Saipan World Resort Tuesday.

BIRTHDAY GIRL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to Abbigelle Joy H. Delos Reyes, who is celebrating her birthday today, Sept. 12, 2008. May you enjoy your special day with your loved ones. Greetings come from your family.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Educational materials, flyers, and leaflets are displayed on a side table during the first Pacific Summit on Diabetes at the Saipan World Resort.

BUS RIDE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Oleai Elementary School students get on the Public School System school bus yesterday afternoon.

Pacific nations a drag in World Bank survey

Vanuatu alone in improving ease of doing business

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Vanuatu is the only Pacific Island nation to improve its standing in this year's World Bank ease of doing business survey.

Other Pacific nations slipped in their rankings, including those that had initiated some reform.

Fiji was again the highest ranked Pacific Island nation at 39th out of 181 countries.

Also in the top 5 were Tonga at 43rd place, Vanuatu at 60th, Samoa at 64th and Kiribati at 79th.

The wooden spoon went to the Federated States of Micronesia at 126th place.

The World Bank's 'Doing Business' report ranks economies based on 10 indicators that track the time and cost it takes to meet government requirements when starting or operating a business.

Vanuatu improved its ranking by increasing the legal protection available to creditors.

Reforms made by other countries were too small to make a difference to their ranking.

The World Bank says the Pacific must accelerate its reforms if it wants to keep pace with the rest of the world.

Despite attracting huge foreign investment thorough its natural resources, the survey says Papua New Guinea is still a difficult place to do business.

There's no doubt that business is booming in Papua New Guinea—the problem is it is extremely hard work.

The World Bank has ranked PNG 95th in overall ease of doing business.

PNG managed no economic reforms to help business in the past year, frustrating David Conn from the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce.

"We hear a lot of talk about two terms of a government, political stability, [but] some of the benefits we think should have been reform," he said.

"In this report there were no reforms in Papua New Guinea, and that's what pushes us back."

It is the fourth consecutive year PNG has slipped down the rankings.

The World Bank says Singapore has kept its top ranking for the third year in a row.

It says the Asian city-state beat New Zealand and the United States in Doing Business 2009.

Completing the list of the 10 easiest business environments was Hong Kong, Denmark, Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia and Norway.

Willie K to headline Club 200

Internationally acclaimed Hawaiian musician Willie K will be headlining this year's Club 200.

The islands' premier social event, hosted by the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, is scheduled for Oct. 25, Saturday night, and will feature many great raffle prizes, including $20,000 cash prize.

Tickets are on sale now and available from Red Cross ticket sellers throughout the CNMI.

Tickets are $100 each and include dinner, entry into the raffle and a performance by Willie K and his band.

For more information about this Halloween ball fundraising event to support the NMI Chapter, call 234-3459 or on-line at www.nmi.redcross.org. ***(ARC)***

Internationally acclaimed Hawaiian musician Willie K.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV-095

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The proposal package will be available on or after **September 12, 2008** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, September 22, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: (670)664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **" RFP08-GOV-095 Construction Management/Contract Compliance."** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. For proposers within the CNMI, sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mail procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the proposal must be postmarked by the USPO (or FedEx, DHL, etc.), or Official Post Office of a foreign country no later than **September 26, 2008**, and received no later than **October 7, 2008 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Joeten Motors Certified* USED CARS

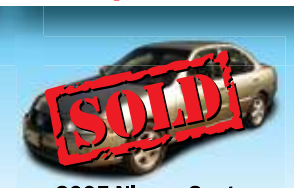
DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Kia Spectra
STOCK # 55151646
$9,995.00

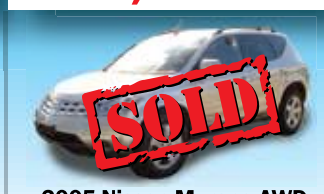
2006 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 6L009897
$17,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer 4x4
STOCK # 4UB49237
$15,995.00

1999 Volkswagon Beetle
STOCK # XM464684
$6,995.00*



2005 Nissan Sentra
STOCK # 5L474083
$11,995.00*



2005 Nissan Murano AWD
STOCK # 5W414457
$18,995.00

1999 Toyota 4Runner 4x4
STOCK # X0221184
$9,995.00*

2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436
$23,995.00

2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 5C424207
$17,995.00

2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

2005 Nissan 350Z
STOCK # 5M654094
$22,995.00*

2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C702102
$21,995.00*

Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4
STOCK # 4UC14321
$13,995.00*

2005 Honda Pilot 4x4
STOCK # 5H528401
$22,995.00*

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. BENIGNO T. FEJERAN, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 07-0230 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 11, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property, Lot 031 T 03, located on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 26,244 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 T 00, which was recorded on October 22, 1976, as Document No. 5640, at Land Registry office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 3, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at die commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 12th day of August 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Museum patron donates historical materials

Over the past year, Floyd Masga has donated a number of historical items to the CNMI Museum. These have included Japanese peso notes, and early 20th century publications featuring the CNMI.

Masga recently donated two more items to the museum. One is an August 1945 edition of the *Saipan Beacon*, a publication produced by the U.S. Military Command on Saipan. The publication featured an assortment of news of the war and news from back home for the consumption of U.S. military forces in the Pacific. The old Navy Hill Lighthouse was used as the logo image for the paper.

Masga's other donation is a November 1945 *National Geographic* magazine featuring 17 paintings of the Marianas by Navy Combat artist Lt. William Franklin Draper. The images include sea and land battles on and around Saipan, the aftermath of the campaign, and local survivors.

Floyd Masga, right, presents a World War II issue of the *Saipan Beacon* and a *National Geographic* magazine to Evelyn Diaz of the Saipan Museum.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Beacon
PUBLISHED BY ISLAND COMMAND

ATOMIC BOMBS TO PULVERIZE JAPAN

WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP ON THE ATOMIC BOMB

Allied Troops Push Ahead in Burma

Truman Says Allies Prepared To Entirely Obliterate Japan

Chinese Clear 50 Miles Along The Invasion Coast

One 45 Day Furlough For One Jap General

Senator Johnson Dies

BULLETINS
VIA SAN FRANCISCO RADIO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cover of the Aug. 8, 1945 edition of the *Saipan Beacon*.

BoG expands 'Choose Green' program to NMI

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam is expanding its "Choose Green" campaign on Guam and launching the program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

In an effort to reduce waste on the islands, the corporate recycling program focuses on educating its staff and communities on the importance of making smart choices and choosing to recycle.

The Bank of Guam will continue, through a customer incentive program, to distribute thousands of its familiar, and now larger cotton tote bags along with a list of participating merchants. The program will also be publicized through the media throughout Guam and the CNMI.

Participating merchants provide an incentive of 5 cents per cotton bag used—which is in lieu of using plastic bags. For example, if a customer uses two cotton bags rather than two plastic bags, 10 cents will be deducted from the total bill. This also saves on the merchant's cost of each plastic bag, but more importantly prevents that plastic bag from taking more space in the islands' limited trash sites.

"We are partnering with companies, who like us, believe that we must take the lead in protecting our environment. These partnerships help us to educate our citizens to learn good habits so that our choices are not harmful to our islands' limited resources," according to Lou Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president and board chair.

The expanding list of participating merchants in Guam and the CNMI will be released on Sept. 15, 2008. Interested merchants may contact Liza Beighley, assistant vice president/quality assurance officer at 472-5231 or visit the bank's website for details at www.bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

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Are you thinking of moving to an apartment that has 24hr power?
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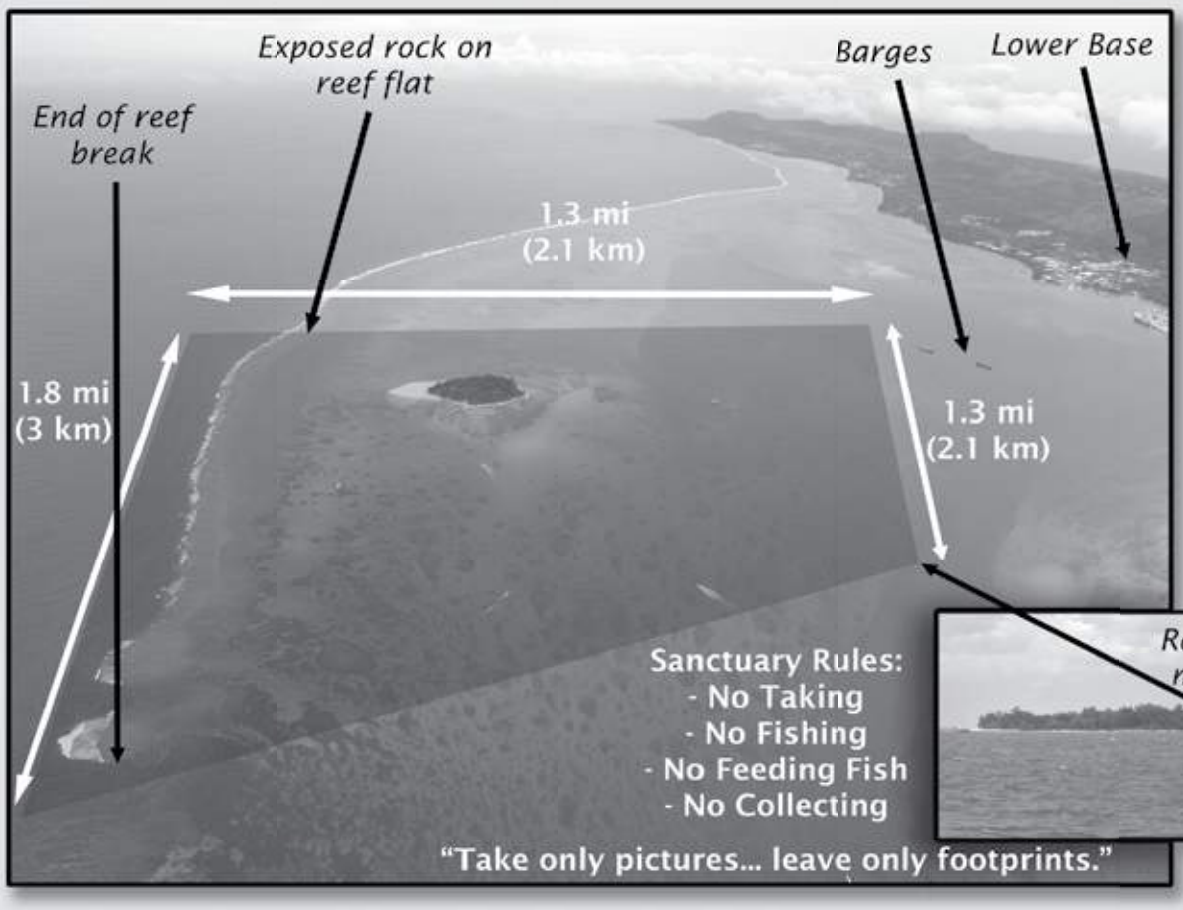
- 24 Hour Water
- Night Time Security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry Area
- Free Trash Collection
- Backup Generator
- On-call Maintenance Staff

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife

Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area

A Fully Protected No-take Area

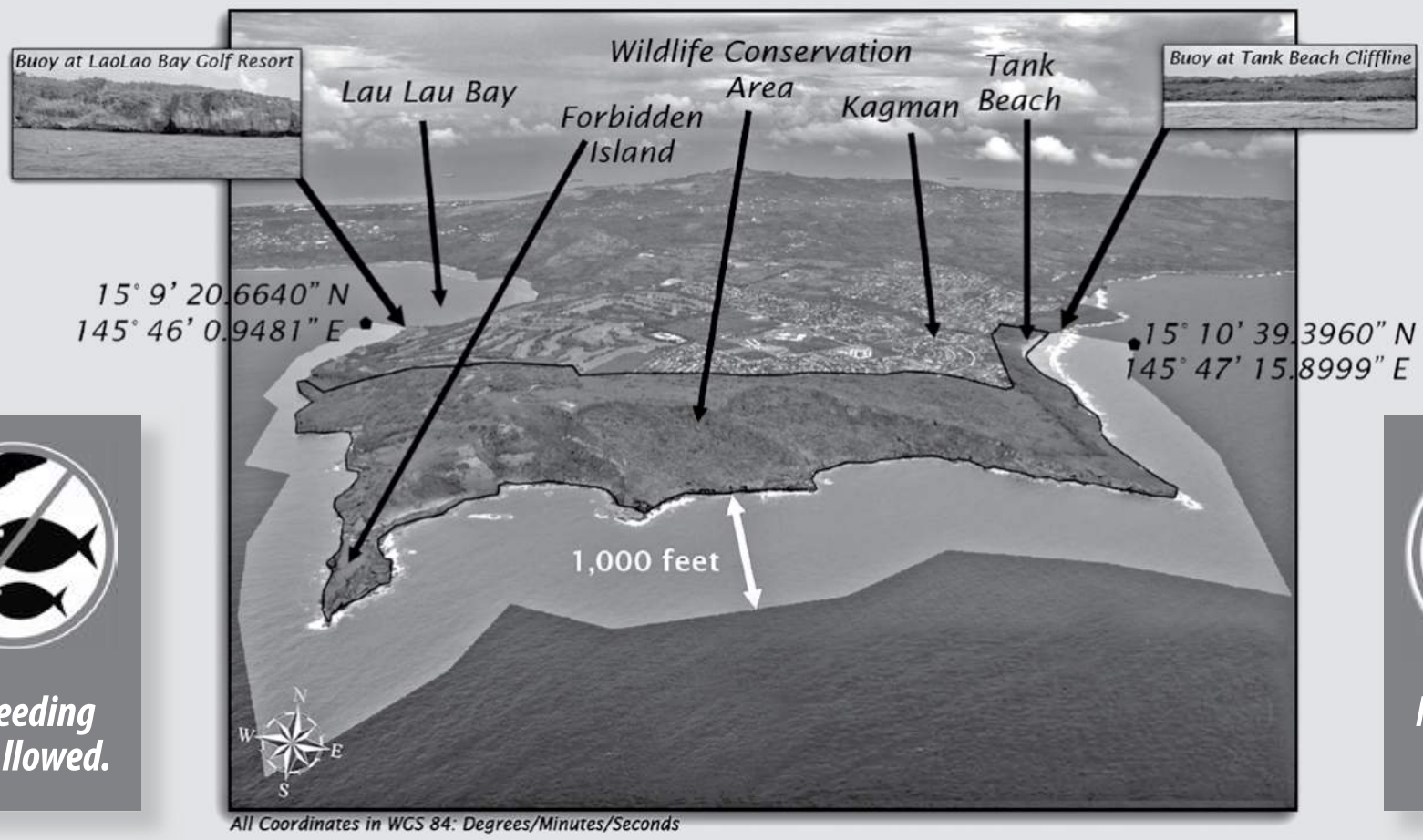


No Fishing Allowed.

Do not stand on coral!

Forbidden Island Sanctuary

A Fully Protected No-take Area



All Coordinates in WGS 84: Degrees/Minutes/Seconds

No Feeding Fish Allowed.

No Collecting Allowed.

CNMI's Marine Protected Areas

Protecting our reefs and fish today so they can be enjoyed tomorrow.

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Business

Lehman must convince Wall Street it can deliver

NEW YORK (AP)—Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. has presented its rescue plan, now it has to convince Wall Street it can make good on its promises.

On Wednesday, the 158-year-old investment bank outlined a blueprint to sell off its well-respected investment management unit and spin off its commercial real estate assets. The strategy is part of a last-ditch effort to rescue the investment bank from bad bets on real estate-related holdings that have already laid low other storied Wall Street firms.

Lehman Chief Executive Dick Fuld, 62, the longest serving CEO on Wall Street, also said the firm would examine all other options—including a sale of the company he joined right out of college.

For investors, the strategy seemed long on hope, short on details and raised questions about timing and execution, analysts said. Investors had hoped to see a solid plan in place to offset almost $6.5 billion of losses during the past two quarters.

Lehman's shares fell 54 cents, or about 7 percent, to $7.25 on Wednesday. They shed 4.5 percent more in after hours trading, after dropping about 45 percent on Tuesday.

Wall Street's uncertainty also showed up Wednesday in the cost for insuring Lehman's debt against default. The insurance, known as credit default swaps, rose to 6.10 percentage points from 4.75 percentage points after Lehman rolled out its strategy. Those insurance costs are now greater than those of former rival Bear Stearns shortly before was rescued by a Federal Reserve-backed plan in March.

The nation's fourth-largest investment bank plans to sell a 55 percent stake in its investment management division, which includes its prized Neuberger Berman asset management unit. Lehman said it is in advanced talks with several bidders, but refused to give a timeline about when a deal would take place.

Investors were discouraged that no buyer had been named. Lehman began pitching a deal to private-equity firms two months ago. Analysts believe the sale could fetch about $3 billion.

"This is agonizing for shareholders," said Mark Williams, a professor of finance at Boston University School of Management. "Fuld was supposed to have a war room started in March, when Bear Stearns nearly collapsed, to solve these problems, and at this point he has failed miserably."

Arrayed against the plan: The current financial crisis shows no sign of ending soon, credit conditions remain tight and big acquisitions are rare. Big institutional investors—like state-owned sovereign wealth funds and private-equity firms—aren't as willing to make major investments.

If all else fails, Fuld left open the option of selling the company.

At OPEC, cooling rivalries and extending a hand

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The just ended OPEC meeting was about more than what a barrel of oil can fetch on the open market as the global economic picture grows dim.

OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia gave a nod, at least symbolically, to fellow member states that have grown increasingly uneasy about the rapid decline in crude prices. The Saudis attempted to placate rival Iran, and laid the groundwork for a potential new alliance with Russia, the world's second largest oil producer.

But OPEC's announcement that it would cut output by more than 500,000 barrels by sticking closer to quotas did little to change what most consumers care most about—the cost of filling up a car with gas or heating a home over the winter.

Benchmark oil prices were on a downward course Wednesday, shedding 68 cents to fetch $102.58 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude briefly touched $98.10.

Behind the scenes, the 13-nation energy cartel juggled the conflicting interests of Saudi Arabia and Iran—and brought oil and gas giant Russia closer into the fold by agreeing to sign a cooperation agreement with the Kremlin.

OPEC's continued ability to present a common front, while extending a hand to Russia, is potentially bad news for major crude consumers including the U.S. and Europe. There may be even less wiggle room in trying to find the lowest bidder to meet their energy needs at a time when the summer's record oil prices close to $150 are a still vivid memory.

ANGRY BEER DRINKERS AP

In this July 14, 2008 file photo, bottles of Budweiser and Stella Artois beer are seen on display at Dixie Liquors in Washington. Ten angry beer drinkers have filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008, claiming Belgium-based InBev's $52 billion purchase of Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. would violate U.S. antitrust law if completed as planned in the coming months.

Pentagon delays its $35B Air Force tanker decision

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department has again delayed plans to award a $35 billion contract for Air Force refueling planes, handing a victory to defense contractor Boeing Co. and leaving the politically charged decision for the next president.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told lawmakers Wednesday that he ended the current round of bidding on the tankers because the Pentagon's plan to pick a winner by the end of the year no longer seemed possible given the complexity of the project and the rancor between Boeing and rival Northrop Grumman Corp. He said a delay would provide a "cooling off" period.

Oil prices slip even after US inventories shrink

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices closed slightly lower in jittery trading Wednesday, as the strengthening dollar and signs of a slowing economy outweighed inventory drops and word that OPEC would cut production.

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said that crude inventories fell by 5.9 million barrels last week compared to the previous week, and that gasoline inventories fell by 6.5 million barrels. The EIA also reported, however, that inventories of distillates—which include heating oil and diesel fuel—fell by a lower-than-anticipated 1.2 million barrels.

Refineries were running at a low 78.3 percent of their capacity last week, the report said.

"It's being seen as somewhat aberrant because of the storms," said John Kilduff, senior vice president of risk management at MF Global LLC. "But I don't think you can ignore this data."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank of America settles securities probe

BOSTON (AP)—Bank of America Corp. said Wednesday it will buy back about $4.5 billion worth of auction-rate securities held by roughly 5,500 customers nationwide as part of a settlement agreement with Massachusetts regulators. The auction-rate securities market involved investors buying and selling instruments that resembled corporate debt, except the interest rates were reset at regular auctions, some as frequently as once a week. The market for the securities collapsed in February. The Charlotte, N.C.-based bank said it continues to cooperate fully with ongoing investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Attorney General's Office.

Icahn says he has $70-per-share offer for Imclone

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Biotechnology company ImClone Systems Inc. said Wednesday it is considering a buyout offer worth $70 per share from an unidentified large pharmaceutical company, and rejected a $60-per-share bid from partner Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. ImClone said Chairman Carl Icahn has been in talks with the chief executive of the pharmaceutical company that made the new offer, which would be worth about $6.1 billion. ImClone's board will allow the potential buyer two weeks to do due diligence. ImClone said it has not decided if the offer is adequate. The new offer would be a premium of 10 percent to ImClone's Tuesday closing price of $63.65. On Wednesday, ImClone stock jumped $4.29, or 6.7 percent, to $67.94.

Interior employees accused in sex, gift scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government brokers responsible for collecting billions of dollars in federal oil royalties operated in a "culture of substance abuse and promiscuity" that included having sex with energy company employees, accepting lavish gifts and rigging contracts to favored firms, investigators said Wednesday. The alleged transgressions involve 13 former and current Interior Department employees in Denver and Washington. Their alleged improprieties include influencing contracts, working part-time as private oil consultants and having sexual relationships with—and accepting golf and ski trips, snowboarding lessons and concert tickets from—oil company employees, according to three reports released Wednesday by the Interior Department's inspector general.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,871.50 Down 89.90 (-1.81%)
HONG KONG	19,260.79 Down 738.99 (-3.69%)
JAKARTA	1,853.18 Down 31.86 (-1.69%)
TOKYO	12,102.50 Down 244.13 (-1.98%)
K. LUMPUR	1,062.70 Down 5.85 (-0.55%)
MANILA	2,672.56 Down 36.93 (-1.36%)
SINGAPORE	2,553.64 Down 68.77 (-2.62%)
SEOUL	1,443.24 Down 21.74 (-1.48%)
BANGKOK	651.58 Down 33.96 (-0.60%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,268.92 +0.34%
S&P	1,232.04 +0.61%
NASDAQ	2,228.70 +0.85%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2597
British Pound	0.5706
Canadian Dollar	1.0745
Chinese Yuan	6.8497
Euro	0.7174
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7998
Indian Rupee	45.5200
Indonesian Rupiah	9,440.0000
Japanese Yen	107.2100
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4690
New Zealand Dollar	1.5487
Philippine Peso	47.1000
Singapore Dollar	1.4430
South Korean Won	1,133.8000
Swiss Franc	1.1384
Taiwan Dollar	32.0970
Thailand Baht	34.7400

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Brighten up those office shelves

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

When Chris Plantan was growing up, her family celebrated the start of school as if it were Christmas. "My grandparents would send a lovingly wrapped package of school supplies to us each fall" from their general store in Sheffield, Ill., she says. "I loved it."

Thus began Plantan's personal relationship with paper. Years later, when she went to work as an architect and was uninspired by the notebooks, notepads and folders in the office supply closet, she made her own. Then she did the same for her daughter.

Rather than sending her child to school with a store-bought vinyl binder, Plantan made one out of heavy-grade book board. She covered the spine in bright red-orange linen, attached a dry-erase board to the inside cover and wrapped a big rubber band around the whole thing to avoid "binder explosion." When classmates began offering her daughter money for her homemade binder, Plantan knew she was onto something.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Fashion runways inspire colors in Russell and Hazel products.

Today, she is the founder and owner of a successful high-end stationery and office supply business based in Minnesota. The products are designed to be fun and functional—to "add life to your work," according to Plantan. She named the company after those same grandparents, Russell and Hazel.

Started as an e-commerce site in 2003, Russell+Hazel has a flagship store in Minneapolis, and its supplies can also be found at www.russellandhazel.com, national retailer the Container Store, in the Neiman Marcus catalogue and in smaller boutiques worldwide. Last year, the company did almost $2 million in sales, a remarkable showing for a paper-based business in a sluggish economy and a society bound to iPhones and BlackBerrys.

But these are not your ordinary office supplies.

The company's clean, colorful take on notebooks, pens, binders and storage containers have made it a favorite among designers, shelter magazines and movie studios. (Its products have appeared in "The Devil Wears Prada" and the latest Indiana Jones movie, to name two.) This summer, Russell+Hazel was invited to open a temporary shop in one of Manhattan's luxury department stores, Henri Bendel.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Russell and Hazel, a high-end office supply outfitter based in Minneapolis, offers binders in solid colors as well as patterns.

The small satellite shop, meant to tempt school-clothes shoppers, includes a "binder bar," where customers can get help putting their organizational components together, and a "fitting desk" for shoppers to try out their picks before making a purchase. Binders start at $14, single-subject notebooks at $12.

Plantan and her designers look to fashion runways and the home-design industry for guidance when choosing the newest shades and patterns to add to their core collection of colors: lime green, red-orange, light blue and charcoal gray. The vibrant and stylish R+H products beg to be displayed on a desk or carried about town.

Welcome to the world of the office supply as a personal accessory.

We talked to Plantan via phone and e-mail from Minneapolis about Russell+Hazel and the appeal of paper.

How does a company that so heavily relies on paper continue to thrive in an increasingly electronic world?

I don't think we'll ever become a completely paperless society—we're just not wired that way. I think we need to hold products and use things instead of just type away. Being able to write things down is a part of who we are as a culture.

Who are your competitors, and what makes R+H stand out among them?

Our competitors are big-box stores where purchases are made out of convenience. We are a separate destination. Shoppers have to make the decision to visit our site or a place that carries our products. ... It's the level of quality and our attention to detail that makes us stand out. For example, our designs have lines that don't run off the pages, which is more expensive. The paper is made of mostly recycled content. The weight of paper is heavier, so there is no bleed-though, and we use metal corners for reinforcement so products don't fall apart. We don't add things to drive up the price point. Everything is added for a reason and enhances the product.

Who is your typical customer?

Female, ages 18 to 45—but I think I'll say 50, so I can be part of that group!—from urban areas.

THE WASHINGTON POST
In addition to binders, Russell and Hazel sells notepads and other accessories.

What is R+H's most popular item?

The three-ring binder. A binder is something we've all grown up with, and it's an easy way to organize. We print things out and need to put them somewhere. We always recommend you start with the binder, either size (standard or mini). We specifically designed the system around them. All the paper products and organizational items work within or around this system.

What is your favorite?

The mini-notebook. I use one per week, and I date them by week. I carry a whole month's worth in my mini-binder. When the month is over, I organize them in my desk, where I keep the whole year for easy reference. They are great when you're on the go, because you don't have to carry a whole binder.

Do you prefer paper?

I do for my record-keeping and personal date-keeping, and I still take notes that way. I will say that I don't know what I'd do without my BlackBerry, but ... I can't imagine ever going completely electronic. I think I'd panic.

How do you come up with new ideas?

We look at what people will be wearing each season and bring in colors that will add a lot of punch and juice in small doses. We take the colors we see on the runways and in the stores at the moment. ... Someone may not look good dressed in one of those colors, but they can spend $16 on a binder and have fun with it without making a huge financial investment. This fall, the new colors will be Apricot and Mandarin.

What does the future hold for Russell+Hazel?

Bendel's was so exciting: opening a store within a store and using other people's real estate. We're very excited to start working with that same model in different locations and are currently in talks with iconic landmark retailers, Fred Segal in Los Angeles, Halls in Kansas City and Selfridges in London. We want to turn buying office products into a Saturday afternoon purchase with friends or family, instead of a drudgery purchase made after work. The thought is: Can Post-it Notes be lip gloss?

$ DOLLARS AND SENSE

Get free stuff at FreeCycle

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Even better than a dollar stretched is a dollar that isn't spent at all. It's always good to get things you need for free.

FreeCycle is an online network made up of 4,500 smaller groups around the world. Its main purpose is to keep things out of landfills, but what it means for you is free stuff that you need. Members offer things they want to give away or ask for things they need. No item is too small or large, it seems. You can find a new bottle of shampoo used only once (the buyer didn't like it), or a washing machine that still has some life left in it but can't be taken in a move. The list of requested items is just as diverse.

Each FreeCycle group is managed by a moderator who makes sure everyone keeps to the rules. (Rules vary by group, but typically include things like no selling of e-mail addresses, no free pets and no bartering or trading.) Signup can be a bit complicated, but you only have to do it once. Each group (broken down by towns or small areas) has a Yahoo Groups site where you can sign in to read messages or view the photos of items that members have posted. Or you can opt to have each listing sent to you in e-mail. (This is easier.)

To read the FAQ and sign up, go to www.freecycle.org. Your best bet is to start by reading the postings for a few days and then giving something away. This establishes your sense of fair play with the group.

Craigslist is another site with a Free section, although this one is under the For Sale category. Check it out at craigslist.org and click your city or state on the right side of the screen. The best listings are the ones with pictures included. If there isn't a photo, you can reply to the ad and ask that one be sent to you.

The standard cautions apply. Don't put your phone number or address in your post. Ask for the sender's phone number for any replies you get. That way you can call and weigh your own level of comfort in where/how to transfer the items.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Nation

Evacuations begin in Texas ahead of Hurricane Ike

HOUSTON (AP)—The frail and elderly were put aboard buses Wednesday and authorities warned 1 million others to flee inland as Hurricane Ike steamed toward a swath of the Texas coast that includes the nation's largest concentration of refineries and chemical plants.

Drawing energy from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the strengthening storm was expected to blow ashore early Saturday somewhere between Corpus Christi and Houston, with some forecasts saying it could become a fearsome Category 4, with winds of at least 131 mph.

Such a storm could cause a storm surge of 18 feet in Matagorda Bay and four to eight feet in Galveston Bay, emergency officials warned. The surge in Galveston Bay could push floodwaters into Houston, damaging areas that include the nation's biggest refinery and NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Four counties south and east of Houston announced mandatory or voluntary evacuations, and authorities began moving weak and chronically ill patients by bus to San Antonio, about 190 miles from Houston. A mandatory evacuation was also ordered for the west end of Galveston Island. No immediate evacuations were ordered in Harris County, which includes Houston.

Just across the state line where Louisianans were still cleaning up from Hurricane Gustav, Cameron Parish residents were told to evacuate, as were those in a few other low-lying coastal communities.

In Texas, Johnny Greer, a 54-year-old retired plant operator at Dow Chemical Corp., boarded up his house a mile from the Gulf of Mexico in Brazoria County and planned to hit the road.

"Gas and stuff is high. But you can't look at all that," he said. "I think my life is more valuable than high gas prices."

About 1 million people live in the coastal counties between Corpus Christi and Galveston. An additional 4 million live in the Houston area, to the north.

The oil and gas industry watched the storm closely, fearing damage to the very heart of its operations.

Texas is home to 26 refineries that account for one-fourth of U.S. refining capacity, and most are clustered along the Gulf Coast in such places as Houston, Port Arthur and Corpus Christi. Exxon Mobil Corp.'s plant in Baytown, outside Houston, is the nation's largest refinery. Dow Chemical has a huge operation just north of Corpus Christi.

Refineries are built to withstand high winds, but flooding can disrupt operations and—as happened in Louisiana after Gustav—power outages can shut down equipment for days or weeks. An extended shutdown could lead to higher gasoline prices.

As always, some hardened old-timers decided to ride it out. Fourth-generation fisherman James Driggers, 47, planned to spend the storm aboard his 80-foot boat docked in Freeport.

"We like to stay close to our paycheck," he said.

At 8 p.m. EDT, Ike was a Category 2 storm with winds near 100 mph. It was about 700 miles east of Brownsville, Texas, and was moving northwest at 8 mph, after ravaging homes in Cuba and killing at least 80 people in the Caribbean.

No matter where Ike hits, its effects are likely to be felt for hundreds of miles, said Mark Sloan, emergency management coordinator for Harris County, which includes Houston.

"It's a very large storm," Sloan said. "The bands will be over 200 miles out from the center of storm, so we have to be aware of its size as it grows over the next 24 to 48 hours and what impacts it will have on Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

AP

Nicole Duggan of Corpus Christi, Texas, helps load up her family's car with food, water and other supplies they'll need to get through Hurricane Ike Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008, in Corpus Christ.

Obama accuses McCain camp of lies, phony outrage

By NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Wednesday accused Republican John McCain's campaign of using "lies and phony outrage and Swift-boat politics" in claiming he used a sexist comment against vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

Calling it "the latest made-up controversy by the John McCain campaign," Obama responded to the Republicans' charge that he was referring to Palin when he used the phrase "lipstick on a pig" at a campaign stop Tuesday.

"I don't care what they say about me. But I love this country too much to let them take over another election with lies and phony outrage and Swift-boat politics. Enough is enough," he said.

Obama's reference to swift boating was to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, an outside group that in 2004 made unsubstantiated allegations about Democratic nominee John Kerry's decorated military record in Vietnam.

In his initial comments Tuesday, Obama was delivering a dissertation about McCain and President Bush—not Palin—when he used the lipstick aphorism. In fact, his reference to the Alaska governor later on was a defense of her strong belief in religion.

The lipstick maxim is hardly new to either Obama or McCain.

AP

Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. speaks during a town hall meeting in the library of Granby High School in Norfolk, Va., Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008.

Jubilant Alaskans welcome Gov. Sarah Palin home

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin arrived home to a chanting, cheering crowd, a blur of smiling supporters eager to embrace her after a whirlwind of national scrutiny since she was named Republican presidential nominee John McCain's running mate.

"It's been an amazing couple of weeks," Palin told the crowd of more than 2,000 gathered inside an airport hanger. They chanted, "Sarah, Sarah," waved signs that said, "Palin Is great."

Palin offered the crowd much of the same campaign speech she's given since McCain named her to the GOP ticket on Aug. 29, including her reference to listing the state plane for sale on eBay after she became governor.

"I say that hopefully not sounding hypocritical as I walk off that," she said, pointing to the McCain campaign jet she now uses.

She received the loudest bursts of applause when promising to push for drilling in this oil-rich state.

"Our state, Alaska, will be a leader in our nation's energy policy and bring us one step closer to energy independence," she told the audience, at one point straying from her prepared speech to say, "I feel like I'm preaching to the choir because you guys already know this."

This was Palin's first stop on her first campaign trip without McCain, who escorted Palin and her husband, Todd, to a Washington airport Wednesday. Palin told the hometown crowd "I can't wait to introduce you to John McCain. He's a friend of Alaska."

NYC suspends school visits to UN bldg. over fire safety

NEW YORK (AP)—The city and the United Nations, which have tussled for years over parking tickets and property taxes, are now squabbling over schoolchildren—specifically, whether it's safe for them to visit U.N. headquarters.

The nation's largest school system said this week it was halting trips to the landmark complex over concerns about fire hazards, though the U.N. insists the buildings are safe.

"We feel that it's very unfortunate that children in this area—in the host city, in our neighborhood—can't come visit," U.N. spokeswoman Soung-ah Choi said Wednesday.

The city's decision affects only local public school pupils, who account for many of the roughly 50,000 students who tour the U.N.'s midtown Manhattan headquarters each year. The U.N. draws about 500,000 visitors of all ages annually.

The dispute comes as the city seeks more say on fire safety in buildings owned by governmental agencies now exempt from city regulations and inspections. Two firefighters died in an August 2008 blaze in a government-owned skyscraper near ground zero that was rife with safety violations.

City officials who were allowed to inspect the U.N. in 2006 and early 2007 found 866 violations, according to a letter Monday from Marjorie B. Tiven, the city's U.N. liaison. The complex, which dates to 1951, is just beginning its first major overhaul.

The inspectors called for new sprinklers, smoke detectors, exit signs and fire doors, among other things. Tiven, who also is Mayor Michael Bloomberg's sister, said many problems have been fixed but the world body failed to install fire doors in some areas of the 39-story Secretariat building and corridors underneath the complex.

"Given that they haven't competed these critical safety projects, we're not comfortable sending schoolchildren on tours," Bloomberg spokesman Jason Post said Wednesday.

Tiven said fire officials had recommended canceling all tours, a suggestion the U.N. has rebuffed.

Pa. town where Flight 93 crashed looks to tourism

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Searching for an economic boost and home to perhaps the most compelling story of 9/11, rural Somerset County is trying to pull off a balancing act: Remembering the victims of United Airlines Flight 93 in a way that encourages development and job growth without devolving into tackiness and disrespect.

Three years before the anticipated opening of a memorial that the National Park Service expects will bring in 250,000 visitors a year, officials say they are working to make this area of western Pennsylvania more hospitable to tourists.

By necessity, they say, this would bring more inns, restaurants and other new businesses and jobs to a region where the traditional industries—steel, coal-mining, manufacturing and farming—have declined over the decades.

The buildup has already begun, accomodating the 1 million people the Park Service estimates have visited a temporary Flight 93 memorial since it opened about six months after the plane plummeted into a reclaimed minefield in Shanksville on Sept. 11, 2001.

The work is creating opportunities in a county of just under 80,000 with a median family income $15,000 below the national average. At the same time, officials say they are determined to find ways to prevent development that could be seen as exploiting the events of Sept. 11, including tacky gift shops on the narrow roads leading to the memorial.

"We really don't market, we allow it to do its own thing," said Ron Aldom, executive director of the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce. He said no one wants to do anything to offend the families of the 40 passengers and crew who perished.

AP

The temporary Flight 93 memorial is seen in Shanksville, Pa., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008.

"But there is a commitment from this county to make sure that, as people come to this, that the facilities are in place, that we're looking at the traffic patterns, that we're looking at the safety issues," he said.

The $58 million memorial to the victims is scheduled to open in Shanksville, a town of about 250 about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Flight 93 plummeted out of a crystal clear sky at nearly 600 mph, missing nearby homes and the area's only school by barely a mile on either side.

Investigators believe terrorists crashed the plane as passengers rushed the cockpit, making it the only one of the four airliners hijacked that day that did not reach its intended target, believed to be Washington.

Today, a fence decorated with flags, hats and other memorabilia left by visitors stands close to the site of the actual crash. A small National Park Service hut, rows of marble plaques and benches with the names of those who died tell the story.

In the past three years, at least a dozen small inns and bed and breakfasts have opened in a 15-mile radius of the crash site, Aldom said. At least a dozen restaurants have also opened.

"It's sparked investment, no doubt," Aldom said.

There are other projects where visitors to the memorial may have played a factor, such as the impending reopening of a ski resort that had been closed in recent years, and the renovation of one of the two other ski resorts in the area.

Linda Musser, owner of Saddle Ridge Bed and Breakfast, opened her three-room, country-style inn in the spring of 2005. Under "local attractions" on her Web site, the first listing is the Flight 93 temporary memorial, just a mile away.

For no more than $95 a night, Musser's guests can enjoy the rural lifestyle, her pet goats, s'mores on a campfire and the front porch. Since opening, occupancy has risen each year, peaking this past summer, she said.

Chertoff: Aviation still vulnerable to terror

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's top domestic security official said Wednesday aviation remains vulnerable to terrorist attack seven years after 9/11.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the al-Qaida terrorist network continues to focus on the aviation system as a target. He said that the Bush administration has made strides in reducing the nation's vulnerability but that the risk remains.

Chertoff was speaking at the National Press Club. Thursday is the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, in which terrorists crashed hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the president thinks about 9/11 every day and is always concerned about another attack.

"The terrorists are very determined, and they have to be right only once, and we have to be right every single time," she said.

Bill Clinton concerned about 9-11 scholarship fund status

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Clinton has been in talks with the directors of a huge college scholarship fund for families of Sept. 11 victims to address complaints that the program has given out too little money.

The Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund raised more than $128 million in donations and pledges in the years following the terrorist attacks, with the help of several big corporate donors and public appeals by Clinton and former Sen. Bob Dole.

The money was set aside to help the children and spouses of 9/11 victims pay for college. Through June, the fund had given $27.3 million to nearly 1,000 students, and signed up thousands more children to receive aid once they reach college age.

But over the past few years, some families have complained that the grants being handed out by the fund's caretaker, the Minnesota-based Scholarship for America, are too stingy.

Some students said they expected large scholarships that would cover much or all of their tuition, only to receive a few thousand dollars.

"There are a lot of real problems here," Clinton said Wednesday in an address to a group of Sept. 11 families.

Clinton said families should be able to get information about how much money they qualify for and explanations of the amounts they've received. He said there should be a great deal of "transparency and accountability" in the program.

"From my point of view, this is your money," he told the families

Kathleen Wisniewski, whose husband died at the World Trade Center, said she had always assumed the scholarship program would pay the full tuition for all three of her children and was stunned to learn when her eldest daughter applied for aid in 2003 that it would only cover a small portion of the bill.

She said her daughter's annual grants from the program have ranged from nothing in her first semester, when the charity said it hadn't received her application in time, to a few thousand dollars her sophomore year, to a high of $8,600 as a junior.

ACROSS THE NATION

Autopsy: Mohammed died of heart disease, diabetes

HOMEWOOD, Ill. (AP)—Heart disease and diabetes caused the sudden death of Imam W.D. Mohammed, the former Nation of Islam leader who abandoned some of its teachings decades ago to embrace mainstream Islam, authorities said Wednesday. The Cook County medical examiner's office released the autopsy results for Mohammed, 74, who died Tuesday at his Markham home. Laila Mohammed said her father had been in good spirits Saturday when she last saw him. "He seemed to be well," she said Wednesday. "He was happy, I know that." She remembered him as a caring father and a leader who "stood on moral courage." "He believed in a force that is greater and stronger than us," she told reporters. "... God willing our leader, our father, my father is in paradise."

Crews pull body from collapsed Va. building rubble

CHESTER, Va. (AP)—A construction worker was killed Wednesday when a partially built retail and residential building collapsed in a Richmond suburb, officials said. Emergency crews found the body of Scott Giordano, 38, of Disputanta, Va., about six hours after the collapse and continued to search for anyone else who might have been trapped, said Chesterfield County Fire Battalion Chief Robby Dawson. One other male worker with minor injuries was taken to a hospital. Dispatchers received reports that up to a dozen workers were inside when a 60-foot-section came crashing down around noon. Because it wasn't clear how many people were actually in the building, Dawson said the search would continue through the night. "We're to going to continue to search throughout the building until we're confident we've looked everywhere someone could be," Dawson said.

Sex offender who posed as child pleads guilty

PHOENIX (AP)—A sex offender who posed as a 12-year-old boy to enroll in Arizona schools has pleaded guilty to seven criminal charges, two stemming from the charade he pulled for two years, and will go to prison for more than 70 years, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Authorities didn't find any victims of sexual abuse at the schools 30-year-old Neil Havens Rodreick II attended. But when Rodreick's ruse was discovered in January 2007, they found an extensive collection of child pornography at his home.

Rodreick had originally faced 28 counts, but pleaded guilty to only a quarter of them Friday in Yavapai County Superior Court in northern Arizona, according to a plea agreement document obtained Wednesday. Rodreick pleaded guilty to four counts of sexual exploitation of a minor stemming from the pornography, as well as one count each of failure to register as a sex offender, fraud and simple assault.

The felony fraud and misdemeanor assault charge are the only ones that stem from Rodreick's involvement at schools. Authorities say he enrolled in school under fraudulent pretenses, and that he grabbed a girl's buttocks at a charter school in Prescott Valley with the intent to injure, insult or provoke.

Authorities said that when the girl believed Rodreick to be a boy, she shrugged off his behavior as immature. But when police told her his true age, the girl became upset and started to cry.

Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk said according to the terms of the plea deal, Rodreick must serve no less than 70 1/2 years in prison and will not be eligible for release until his sentence is up. She declined to comment further.

Rodreick's defense attorney, Alex Harris, did not return calls seeking comment.

AP

This is an undated file photo originally released by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office showing Neil Havens Rodreick II.

Sentencing has not been scheduled.

Rodreick attended charter schools in Surprise, Payson and Prescott Valley starting in 2005, authorities said. They say he shaved and wore pancake make-up to help him appear younger, convincing teachers, students and administrators that he was a young boy named Casey.

He was caught in January 2007 after spending a day in the seventh grade at a Chino Valley school after school officials became suspicious about his paperwork.

Rodreick was arrested with Brian J. Nellis, 36, who was posing as Rodreick's cousin, and two older men posing as the men's uncle and grandfather.

Nellis, Lonnie Eugene Stiffler, 63, and Robert James Snow, 45, were indicted on various charges, including child pornography and forgery. Nellis and Snow, both convicted sex offenders, were also charged with failing to register with authorities.

When authorities searched the four men's home in Chino Valley, a community northwest of Phoenix, they found more than 600 graphic photos and videos of child pornography and a sex tape that depicts Rodreick and a boy between the ages of 10 and 13 having sex in a motel room.

Asia

Pakistan army chief criticizes US raid

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's military chief on Wednesday lashed out at the United States over cross-border raids by American troops from Afghanistan and said his country's sovereignty will be defended "at all cost."

In an unusually strong public statement, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani said a raid last week into Pakistan's South Waziristan region killed innocent civilians and could backfire on the anti-terror allies.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman would not comment directly on Kayani's remarks. But he said the U.S. military is working closely with the Pakistanis in regard to the border region.

"We have a shared common interest with respect to terrorism and terrorist activities," Whitman said. "Pakistan recognizes the challenges that they have, and the United States is committed to helping allies counter terrorism."

But Kayani said such operations were covered by no agreement between Pakistan and U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan and risked stoking militancy in a region which Washington regards as an intolerably safe haven for al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

"Falling for short term gains while ignoring our long term interest is not the right way forward," Kayani said, according to the statement released through the military's media wing.

"To succeed, the coalition would be required to display strategic patience and help the other side the way they want it, rather than adopting a unilateral approach."

The Pakistan government already hauled in the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad to lodge a strong protest over a highly unusual raid by helicopter-borne grounds troops into South Waziristan last week which residents said killed about 15 people.

RAIN OR SHINE AP

Filipino students gestures as their school bus passes flooded streets in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008. Tropical storm with international name Sinlaku remained a threat to the northern portion of the country as it maintained its strength packing a maximum winds of 140 kilometers per hour and gustiness of 170 kilometer per hour, bringing heavy rains and strong winds.

Asia rattled by 2 strong quakes

TOKYO, Japan (AP)—Two strong earthquakes rattled Asia on Thursday, triggering alerts for a tsunami that harmlessly lapped Japan's northern coast and another in Indonesia that didn't materialize but briefly sent residents fleeing to high ground.

The more powerful of the quakes, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.0, hit off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at a depth of about 12 miles, the country's meteorological agency said.

A 4-inch tsunami rippled to shore 35 minutes later, but there were no signs of damage.

"There was some light shaking, but it was nothing major," said Yukio Yoshida, a police spokesman in Hokkaido.

Authorities temporarily advised about 10,600 residents of Ofunato in Iwate Prefecture, about 125 miles northwest of Tokyo, to evacuate their homes and ordered people to stay away from beaches.

An hour earlier, northeastern Indonesia was hit by a 6.6-magnitude quake that struck 55 miles beneath the Molucca Sea, the U.S. Geological Survey. Though on the same tectonic plate, the temblors were unrelated, local officials said.

A tsunami alert was briefly issued over the radio and television and people in the Maluku capital of Ternate, which was closest to the epicenter, fled from houses and buildings as the earth rumbled beneath them.

The feared wave never came, however, and there were no reports of casualties or damage.

"I ran out of the hotel with other guests and we fled to high ground," Benyamin Otte said. "I could see people on the beach, checking to see if the were any signs of a tsunami, but everything looked normal. Within a half hour, we were heading back down."

South Korea says Kim is on the road to recovery

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's Kim Jong Il is on the road to recovery from a stroke and still in control of his isolated country's communist regime, South Korea suggested Wednesday, disputing reports that the leader is gravely ill.

President Lee Myung-bak convened a meeting of top security ministers, who were briefed on intelligence that indicates Kim was recovering, said Lee Dong-kwan, the president's chief spokesman.

The North Korean leader was currently "not seen to be in a serious condition," the spokesman said in a statement after the meeting late Wednesday, citing the contents of the briefing.

Earlier, South Korea's spy agency told a closed door meeting of lawmakers it had intelligence showing the 66-year-old Kim's condition had much improved, an agency official said on condition of anonymity, citing official policy.

South Korea's optimistic view of Kim's health came as North Korea moved to try and dispel fears about his health after he failed to appear for a key national ceremony Tuesday.

"There are no problems," Kim Yong Nam, Pyongyang's No. 2 leader and ceremonial head of state, told Japan's Kyodo News agency.

Song Il Ho, a senior North Korean diplomat, called reports of Kim's illness "worthless" and a "conspiracy plot," adding that Western media "have reported falsehoods before," according to Kyodo's dispatch from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

Despite the willingness of the North Korean officials to speak through a foreign news agency, their own state media apparatus remained mum on Kim's condition.

Thai army chief seeks end to emergency rule

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's army chief urged the caretaker government Thursday to lift a state of emergency and backed a proposal to form a government of national unity that would include all the country's parties.

"It is time to lift the state of emergency," army commander Gen. Anupong Paochinda told reporters, noting he had conveyed that view to Thailand's interim leadership. "Keeping it in place will damage the country's economy."

Former Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, who was removed by the courts Tuesday, had imposed a state of emergency in the capital Bangkok on Sept. 2 after violent clashes between his supporters and opponents.

Samak was ordered to resign Tuesday by Thailand's Constitutional Court, which found him guilty of violating the constitution by receiving money for televised appearances on cooking shows.

His ouster was the latest political embarrassment for Thailand, where anti-government protesters have occupied the prime minister's office compound since Aug. 26.

Protesters initially demanded Samak's resignation and now say they'll stay put until a suitable replacement is appointed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

ASEAN unlikely to create human rights court or drop nonintervention policy soon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rights activists must not press a bloc of Southeast Asian nations to quickly create a human rights court or drop its nonintervention policy because such pressure is doomed to fail, a Philippine diplomat said Wednesday. Rosario Manalo reminded dozens of human rights activists, who had gathered in Manila to offer their recommendations for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations human rights body, that the 10-member bloc decides which policies to implement by consensus, meaning just one nation can scuttle a proposal. "If you ask right now for a court, forget it," said Manalo, who represents the Philippines in an ASEAN panel setting up the rights body. "Let's have it in the horizon, although it won't have any chance for the moment."

China landslide kills 128, hopes fade for missing

BEIJING (AP)—At least 128 people were killed and many more were feared dead in north China after a huge reservoir of iron ore waste, illegally maintained and turned to sludge by heavy rain, buried a bustling marketplace in tons of suffocating mud. Two thousand rescuers shoveled and hammered through the debris Wednesday searching for those buried under the three-story wave of mud and mining waste that inundated a valley in Shanxi province's Xiangfen county Monday. State media put the official death toll at 128 people with 34 more injured. Authorities have declined to provide a figure for the number of missing people, saying an investigation is ongoing.

Official: Boat capsizes with 40 people in India

PATNA, India (AP)—A government official says 40 people, mostly women and children, are missing after their boat capsized in a river in northern India. Sudhansu Shekhar, the block development officer, says the boat got entangled in a fishing net on Thursday and sank in the strong currents of the Harohar river nearly 25 miles east of Patna, the capital of Bihar state. Boat accidents are common in India where overloading is common and few safety regulations exist.

Sri Lankan air force bombs rebel areas

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Air force jets attacked a rebel intelligence base deep in northern Sri Lanka early Wednesday, stepping up a punishing wave of airstrikes a day after Tamil Tiger fighters launched a surprise attack on a military base, the military said. The Tamil Tigers said the bombs hit a civilian settlement in the rebel's administrative capital of Kilinochchi, destroying 12 houses. Separate battles between the two sides killed 19 rebels and two soldiers, the military said. The air force has conducted a series of bombing raids over rebel-held territory in the north since the Tamil Tigers attacked a military complex in Vavuniya early Tuesday with a massive artillery barrage, aerial bombing and a ground assault conducted by suicide attackers.

World

Ike gains strength over Gulf, aims for Texas

HAVANA (AP)—Hurricane Ike grew stronger as it barreled across the warm, energizing waters of the Gulf of Mexico Wednesday toward the Texas coast after crashing through Cuba's tobacco country and toppling aging Havana buildings.

Forecasters said the Category 1 storm could become a major Category 3 hurricane before slamming into Texas or northern Mexico on Saturday.

Ike has already killed at least 80 people in the Caribbean, and Texas put 7,500 National Guard members on standby and urged coastal residents to stock up on supplies. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency was uncertain when it could begin evacuations along the coast.

Cuban state television said some 2.6 million people—nearly a fourth of the island's population—sought refuge from Ike, which killed four people as it swept across the length of the country. Power was still mostly out in Havana on Wednesday.

Vice President Jose Ramon Machado Ventura said the storm damaged at least 27,000 homes in eastern Cuba, but that tally will rise sharply because it does not include Havana or many other regions where officials are still battling flood waters as they struggle to catalog losses.

Cuba also announced that the hurricane "obligated a gradual decrease in nickel production," which replaced tourism last year as the island's top foreign exchange earner.

On the capital's Malecon coastal highway, crews tried to rescue an elderly man from beneath a pile of rubble outside his apartment building.

Firefighter Lt. Col. Rolando Menendez said the man, still believed to be alive, returned to his seaside home without official approval and a concrete piece of the building's fourth floor slipped loose and fell on him.

As it left Cuba, Ike delivered a punishing blow to western towns such as Los Palacios, which already suffered a direct hit from a Category-4 Hurricane Gustav on Aug. 30.

In a poor neighborhood along the train tracks, the combined fury of Ike and Gustav left nearly two-thirds of the wooden homes leveled or without roofs.

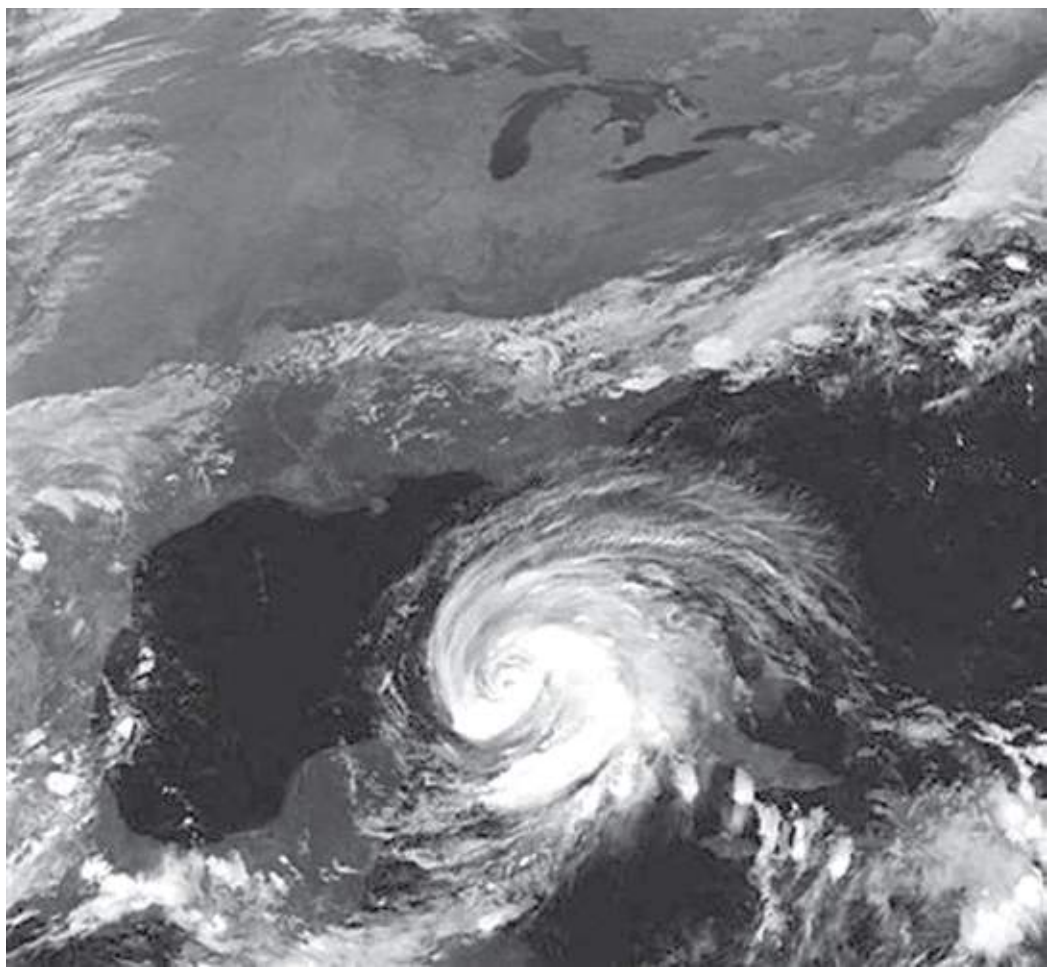
"The first one left me something, but this one left me nothing," said Olga Atiaga, a 53-year-old housewife. Gustav obliterated her roof and some walls. Then Ike blew away a mattress and smashed the kitchen sink.

"I don't even have anything to sleep on," she said.

Odalis Cruz, a 45-year-old housing inspector, said she evacuated to a shelter in the town's rice mill when it became clear Ike was following Gustav's path through Pinar del Rio, the westernmost province where Cuba produces tobacco used in its famous cigars.

She surveyed the damage to her home Tuesday.

"We repaired the roof two days ago and this one took the new one," she said. "I'm ready to move to Canada! We have spent eight days drying out things, cleaning everything, sleeping on the floor, and now we are hit again."



AP

This image provided by NOAA taken Tuesday Sept. 9, 2008 at 11:32 p.m. EDT shows Hurricane Ike in the Gulf of Mexico. At 2 a.m. EDT Wednesday Ike was located about 100 miles north-northeast of Cabo San Antonio on the western tip of Cuba moving toward the west-northwest at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds nearing 80 mph with higher gusts.

Police: Bomb kills Lebanese politician

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—A bomb tore through a car in the hills east of Lebanon's capital on Wednesday, killing a Druse politician who recently helped reconcile rival factions within that minority community, police said.

The bomb that killed Sheik Saleh Aridi, a senior member of the Lebanese Democratic Party, was planted under his car in the village of Baissour, police said.

It was the first political assassination in about a year in Lebanon and came less than a week before planned reconciliation talks among rival Lebanese factions. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora contacted Druse leaders and joined them in calling for calm.

Six other people were injured in the blast, which went off as Aridi got into his Mercedes sedan in front of his house in the Druse-populated hills near the resort town of Aley, police said. Police said the charge was stuck under the body of car, below the driver's seat, and blew up as the car rolled. Officials believe it was triggered either by remote control or by a motion sensor.

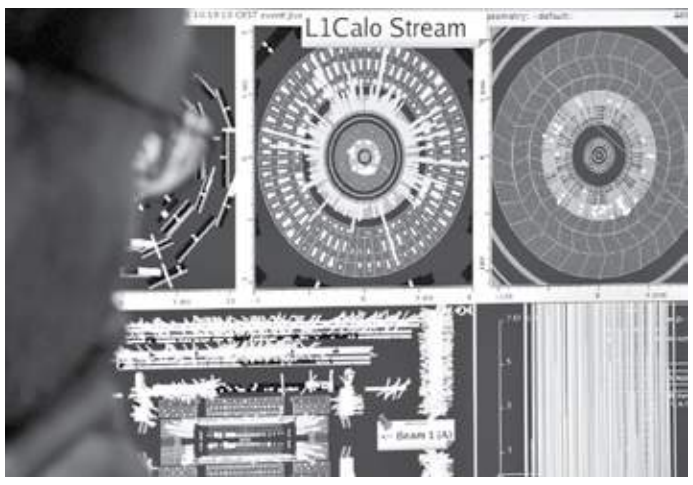
The police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of government regulations.

The bomb tore off the roof of the vehicle. Television footage showed investigators sifting through the blackened hulk of the vehicle with flashlights.

The United States was "deeply concerned" about the bombing and its support of the Lebanese government was "unwavering," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack

The bomb's target was unusual—a politician in support of Syria, a nation that had long dominated its politically fractured neighbor. A string of bombs have largely targeted politicians opposed to Syria's influence in Lebanese affairs, starting with the Beirut truck bombing that killed former Premier Rafik Hariri in 2005.

Scientists beaming after test of big atom smasher



AP

A European Center for Nuclear Research scientist controls a computer screen showing traces on Atlas experiment of the first protons injected in the Large Hadron Collider during its switch on operation at the CERN's press center on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008 near Geneva, Switzerland.

GENEVA (AP)—A small blip on a computer screen sent champagne corks popping among physicists in Switzerland. Near Chicago, researchers at a "pajama party" who watched via satellite let out an early morning cheer.

The blip was literally of cosmic proportions, representing a new tool to probe the birth of the universe.

The world's largest atom smasher passed its first test Wednesday as scientists said their powerful tool is almost ready to reveal how the tiniest particles were first created after the "big bang," which many theorize was the massive explosion that formed the stars, planets and everything.

Rivals and friends turned out in the wee hours at Fermilab in Batavia, Ill., in pajamas to watch the event by a special satellite connection. Joining in from around the world were other physicists—many of whom may one day work on the new Large Hadron Collider.

Tension mounted in the five control rooms at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, as scientists huddled around computer screens. After a few trial runs, they fired a beam of protons clockwise around the 17-mile tunnel of the collider deep under the rolling fields along the Swiss-French border. Then they succeeded in sending another beam in the opposite, counter-clockwise direction.

The physicists celebrated with champagne when the white dots flashed on the blue screens of the control room, showing a successful crossing of the finish line on the $10 billion machine under planning since 1984.

Canada PM: Troops home from Afghanistan in 2011

TORONTO (AP)—Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised for the first time Wednesday that Canada's troops in Afghanistan will be withdrawn in 2011, as his minority government looks to win support in national elections next month.

Harper, who has been a steadfast ally of President Bush in the post-Sept. 11 fight against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan, said Canadians do not have the appetite to keep their soldiers in Afghanistan beyond 10 years.

Harper's pledge goes beyond an agreement Parliament passed in March stipulating only that Canada remove troops in 2011 from Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, the former Taliban stronghold that has become the epicenter of fighting. The parliamentary agreement left the door open to moving them elsewhere in the country.

The prime minister's vow to leave Afghanistan comes as the Canadian death toll in the conflict approaches 100. Canada has lost 97 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan, and the mission—largely unpopular domestically—was expected to be an issue in the campaign.

Harper's remarks appeared designed to keep that from happening.

"You have to put an end date on these things," Harper said during a rare breakfast meeting with journalists while making a campaign stop in Toronto. "We intend to end it."

The body of the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan was brought home Wednesday. Hundreds lined overpasses and waved maple leaf flags as a police motorcade passed along what is known as the "Highway of Heroes."

British prosecutors seek retrial in airline plot

LONDON (AP)—British prosecutors said Wednesday they were seeking a retrial of seven men accused of plotting to down trans-Atlantic airliners using liquid explosives disguised as soft drinks.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said it will ask a judge to formally authorize a second trial after a London jury failed to agree on charges specifically related to the alleged plan to bomb jetliners in 2006.

Jurors on Monday convicted three men on separate conspiracy to murder charges and acquitted an eighth man.

After the plot was announced, airports in the U.S. and Europe ground to a halt. New security precautions were imposed severely restricting the quantity of liquids in carry-on luggage - limits that remain in place today.

Britain's director of public prosecutions Ken Macdonald said the seven men will face new charges specifically related to an accusation they planned to explode bombs on board airliners.

"I have today concluded that the prosecution should apply to retry each of these defendants on every count that the recently discharged jury failed to agree upon," he said in a statement.

Off the Wall

Help-wanted ad for nanny: 'My kids are a pain'

NEW YORK (AP)—It was an unusually honest ad for a live-in nanny, a 1,000-word tome beginning, "My kids are a pain." But it worked, attracting a brave soul who's never been a nanny before.

"If you cannot multitask, or communicate without being passive aggressive, don't even bother replying," Rebecca Land Soodak, a mother of four on Manhattan's Upper East Side, wrote Aug. 19 in her advertisement on Craigslist.

"I can be a tad difficult to work for. I'm loud, pushy and while I used to think we paid well, I am no longer sure."

This being the age of instant communications, the ad took on a life of its own, making the rounds of parenting blogs and e-mail inboxes and inspiring an article in Thursday's New York Times.

Soodak, a 40-year-old painter whose husband owns a wine store, eventually hired Christina Wynn, a 25-year-old University of Virginia graduate, to take care of Rubin, 12; Ellis, 9; and Shay and Cassie, both 6.

"I made a commitment to stay in the job for at least a year," Wynn told the Times. "I met the oldest child, but not the others, which my mother said was crazy—to accept the job without meeting all the kids. So we'll see." She noted that one of the pluses is that the children are all in school for several hours each day.

Some other excerpts from the listing: "If you are fundamentally unhappy with your life, you will be more unhappy if you take this job, so do us all a favor and get some treatment or move to the Rockies, but do not apply for employment with us."

And this: "Also, if you suspect all wealthy women are frivolous, we are not for you."

And this: "I have all sorts of theories on how to stack my dishwasher, and if you are judgmental about Ritalin for ADHD, or think such things are caused by too much sugar, again, deal-break city."

No word yet on whether a sequel to "The Nanny Diaries" is in the works. Meanwhile, Soodak tells the Times: "I hope she likes it here. I sent the ad to one of my old sitters and she said she felt it was pretty accurate, which sort of stung a little bit."

Feisty puppy scares off 3 bears in NJ back yard

WYCKOFF, N.J. (AP)—If only Goldilocks had a cockapoo.

A 15-pound cocker spaniel-poodle mix named Pawlee scared off a mother bear and her two cubs Sunday morning after they strayed into his owners' back yard.

Whether his bark was worse than his bite, Pawlee's tactic worked just fine. These three bears got the hint and took off.

"We had just let him out for the morning and he ran into the yard and started barking his head off," owner Fran Osiason said.

Osiason said her 9-year-old son, Jacob, went outside to see what the commotion was about and came running back in to report there were bears in the yard.

She was worried that the mother would come after Pawlee to protect her cubs, but the pugnacious pup, just 8 months old, had other plans.

His barking drove the two cubs up a tree, and they eventually climbed down and hopped over a fence with their mother and retreated into the woods.

Osiason said she, her son, husband Andrew and daughter Eden, 6, have had Pawlee since he was about 8 weeks old. She marveled at his fearlessness. "He's a little fur ball," she said.

Northern New Jersey seems to breed feisty pets: In 2006, a tabby cat named Jack chased a bear up a tree in his West Milford yard.

Bears are not uncommon in Wyckoff, but Osiason said her family has lived there for about 10 years and had not seen any until Sunday.

With Pawlee on guard, they might not see another one anytime soon.

UPS driver surpasses 1 million miles in his truck

PALESTINE, Texas (AP)—A routine package delivery turned into a milestone for a UPS driver in East Texas. Brent Boyd, 51, on Thursday surpassed one million miles on his UPS delivery truck, the same vehicle he's driven for 22 years with the company.

The odometer on Boyd's 1987 GMC truck rolled over to all zeros as he began his delivery route near Palestine. He said he's never had an accident with his company vehicle. Boyd told The Associated Press that his truck's gone through at least three engines and been repainted several times.

But he's resisted offers for a new van. Boyd says the truck is "like home" and feels like "sitting in the recliner in your house."

Palestine is 105 miles southwest of Dallas.

AP

UPS driver Brent Boyd poses with his truck on Friday, Aug. 29, 2008 in Palestine, Texas.

Italian priest organizes beauty contest for nuns

ROME (AP)—An Italian priest and theologian said Sunday he is organizing an online beauty pageant for nuns to give them more visibility within the Catholic Church and to fight the stereotype that they are all old and dour.

The "Miss Sister 2008" contest will start in September on a blog run by the Rev. Antonio Rungi and will give nuns from around the world a chance to showcase their work and their image.

"Nuns are a bit excluded, they are a bit marginalized in ecclesiastical life," Rungi told The Associated Press after Italian media carried reports of the idea. "This will be an occasion to make their contribution more visible."

Rungi, a theologian and schoolteacher from the Naples area, said that visitors to his site will have a month to "vote for the nun they consider a model."

Nuns will fill out a profile including information about their life and vocation as well as a photograph. It will be up to them to choose whether to pose with the traditional veil or with their heads uncovered.

"We are not going to parade nuns in bathing suits," Rungi said by telephone from his town of Mondragone. "But being ugly is not a requirement for becoming a nun. External beauty is gift from God, and we mustn't hide it."

Rungi said the idea was first suggested to him by nuns with whom he regularly prays and works. He hopes there will be dozens of submissions once the Web site is started.

The contest drew criticism from the association of Catholic teachers.

"It's an initiative that belittles the role of nuns who have dedicated themselves to God," the group's president, Alberto Giannino, told Italy's ANSA news agency on Sunday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NYC man charged with selling stolen bras on Web

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York man has been charged with selling $80,000 worth of stolen Victoria's Secret bras online. Prosecutors say 41-year-old George Tutaya was arraigned Tuesday on charges of possessing stolen property. He faces up to seven years in prison if convicted. Prosecutors say Tutaya used eBay auction and PayPal payment accounts to sell the brassieres for about $25 each. The bras retail for $40 to $80. Prosecutors say records recovered at Tutaya's home in Queens link him to the sale of more than 2,000 bras. They say another 650 stolen bras were recovered in his home.

Japan police fooled by life-sized doll

TOKYO (AP)—Police were trying to determine Tuesday whether they were the victim of a hoax after the body they thought they found at a seaside resort was actually a life-sized doll. Investigators found what seemed like a body wrapped in a sleeping bag in a forest in Izu City, a seaside resort in central Japan, after an anonymous caller reported seeing it, a Shizuoka prefecture spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. Investigators never actually looked inside the sleeping bag and brought it back to the city police station for a post-mortem examination, the spokeswoman said. Apparently no one doubted a human body was inside until a medical examiner unwrapped it and found the doll, she said. The Asahi newspaper said the doll was sophisticated and life-sized and wore a brown wig, a blouse and a skirt.

Man gulps 11.5 pounds, wins Ohio chili contest

MASON, Ohio (AP)—A man nicknamed "Humble Bob" stuffed himself with 11.5 pounds of a local specialty called chili-spaghetti in only about 10 minutes to claim victory in a holiday eating contest. Bob Shoudt won $2,500 at the inaugural Skyline Chili Spaghetti eat-off Monday at Kings Island amusement park. "Humble Bob" dashed to an early lead, sucking down more than two pounds in less than a minute. Shoudt, of Philadelphia, is ranked No. 5 by the International Federation of Competitive Eating. He did so well at vacuuming up the pasta mixture Monday that he narrowly beat the federation's top-ranked competitive eater, Joey Chestnut. Chestnut won this year's July 4 hot dog-eating contest at New York's Coney Island with 59 dogs in 10 minutes.

Colorado deputy clocks VW Beetle at 115 mph

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—A 27-year-old man was being held on $10,000 bond in the Arapahoe County Jail after allegedly speeding up Interstate 25 in a Volkswagen Beetle. An Arapahoe County sheriff's deputy arrested the man on Monday after the deputy said he was clocked driving 115 mph. The deputy attempted to pull over the vehicle, but said he abandoned the pursuit when the driver wouldn't stop. The deputy found the VW crashed on an offramp a few minutes later and saw the suspected driver running through a nearby parking lot. The man and a passenger were taken to a hospital to be examined but were released with no injuries. The man was booked into jail on suspicion of driving under the influence, driving under restraint, reckless driving and vehicular eluding.

Iowa man accused of offering bribe with sandwich

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Iowa City police said a man who was driving drunk tried to bribe a police officer—with a sandwich. Police said a 25-year-old man was charged with drunken driving early Sunday morning after an officer saw him driving with his headlights off and pulled him over. Police said the man was riding with a police officer in a squad car when he offered the officer free sub sandwiches if he could go home. The officer declined.

Suspected car burglar gets a dirty dumping

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A 22-year-old suspected truck burglar made a dirty mistake after he tried to hide inside a portable toilet on Saturday. Tampa police said the man broke into two pickup trucks at a parking lot and the owner of the second truck fought the suspect and chased him to a nearby construction site. The suspect tried to hide in the Port-O-Let, but the victim found him and turned it over, covering him in huge amounts of human waste. The man was been charged with auto burglary and possession of burglary tools

Man says he found dead shark in Lake Michigan

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—There's no telling what might turn up in Lake Michigan. Rich Fasi of Traverse City says he found a dead 2-foot shark in the water while fishing on West Grand Traverse Bay on Wednesday. The saltwater fish was a juvenile blacktip shark, George Burgess, director of the Florida Program For Shark Research at the University of Florida, told the Traverse City Record-Eagle. Mark Tonello, a fisheries biologist from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said someone might have caught the shark off the Atlantic Coast and kept it on ice while bringing it to northern Michigan. Another possibility is that the dead shark was dumped by someone who had kept it as a pet, Tonello said.

Science & Technology

Dell finally thinks small and chic

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

One of Dell's latest desktop PCs deserves an adjective that has rarely applied to its products: stylish.

The new Studio Hybrid owes nothing to Dell's other desktops. Instead of the traditional boxy tower case, this $499-and-up design packs its components into an compact, oblong cylinder. Perched on its tiny metal platform, it should fit on any desk—or TV stand.

This little machine marks Dell's entry into a category of computer that it and most mainstream computer vendors have ignored so far: the small-form-factor (SFF) desktop. These fit-in-a-shoebox models—for example, Apple's Mac mini and Shuttle's XPC line—preserve many of the core virtues of desktops, such as easily upgradeable components, but take up a smidgen of the space occupied by traditional designs.

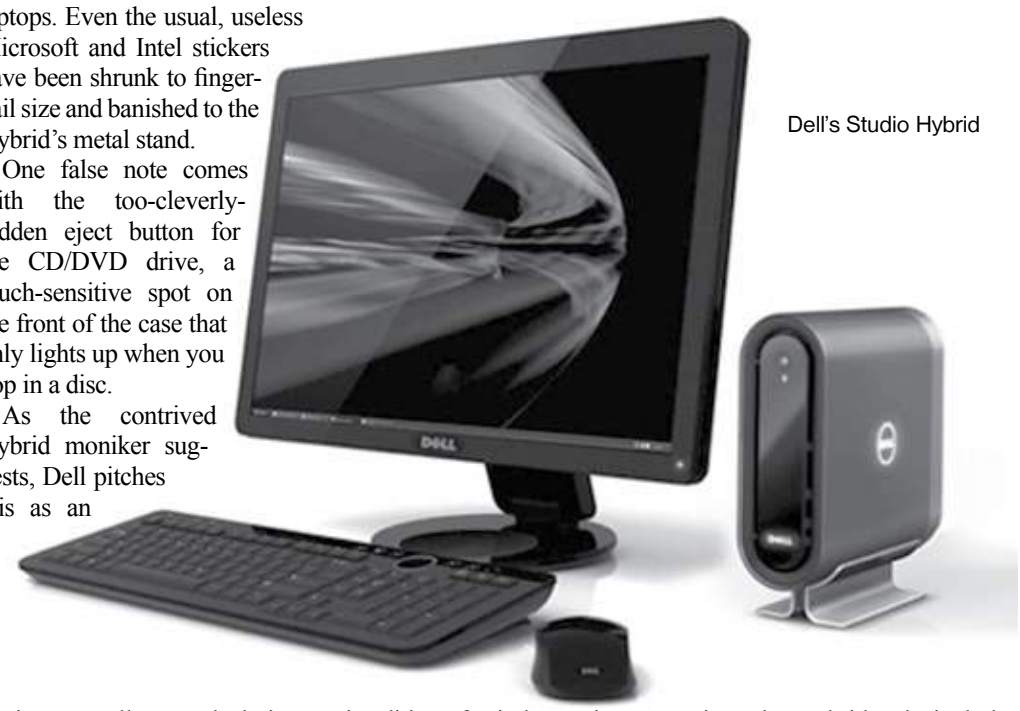
They're a compelling alternative for people who don't want to waste space on a massive desktop but don't want to pay more for a laptop.

Many SFF models can be described with another abbreviation: HTPC, meaning a home theater PC plugged into an HDTV to bring digital music, photos and video to the living room.

True, tiny desktops like the Mac mini, XPC and Studio Hybrid lack the expandability of tower-case systems: You can't pop in an extra hard drive. But for the many users who never crack open their machines, that's a meaningless attribute.

The Studio Hybrid doesn't just look small (at a bit over 8 inches long, under 8 inches tall and less than 3 inches wide, it takes up about a fifth of the space of other Dell desktops), it also looks fairly sharp. Its slot-loading CD/DVD-burner drive and memory-card slot are so well integrated into the front that you might miss their presence at first.

Other less obvious elements show further thoughtfulness on Dell's part. The Studio Hybrid's power brick is a thin, flat module, much smaller than those attached to most desktops and laptops. Even the usual, useless Microsoft and Intel stickers have been shrunk to fingernail size and banished to the Hybrid's metal stand.



Dell's Studio Hybrid

One false note comes with the too-cleverly-hidden eject button for the CD/DVD drive, a touch-sensitive spot on the front of the case that only lights up when you pop in a disc.

As the contrived Hybrid moniker suggests, Dell pitches this as an environmentally sound choice. The Hybrid consumes considerably less juice than any other desktop, clocking in at around 30 watts when powered up (less than half as much as many desktops) and just two when asleep.

Dell also brags about things like the amount of recyclable material in its packaging and the recycling kit inside: pre-addressed, prepaid DHL forms to ship your old computer and monitor back to the company for recycling.

As an everyday home computer, the Hybrid ought to do fine ... once you configure it properly at Dell's site. The entry-level, $499 model only includes a gigabyte of memory—too little for intensive use of Windows Vista. And its 160-gigabyte hard drive will fill up quickly. It also lacks WiFi and bundles the stripped-down Basic edition of Windows Vista.

The rest of the Hybrid's software setup reflects Dell's recent, welcome move to rid its computers of trialware junk. The only notable additions to the standard Windows applications are Google Desktop (useful) and the Dell Dock, a floating toolbar that offers shortcuts to some applications (not so useful). Weirdly enough, no anti-virus applications make the standard bundle.

As with any other Dell, you can remedy these oversights by custom-ordering a system at the company's site. But the costs quickly add up. The souped-up model Dell loaned for this review—with triple the memory, a faster processor, a bigger hard drive, WiFi, and a wireless keyboard and mouse—would have cost $869.

Even then, you'd still have to provide your own monitor. And since the Hybrid only includes digital video outputs—a DVI connector that works with most newer monitors, and an HDMI port that connects to most HDTVs—you'd need to buy an adapter were you to employ an older display.

The Hybrid's pricing looks even worse compared with the rest of Dell's desktop lineup. One of its two cheapest models, the $279 Inspiron 530s, may dwarf the Hybrid and won't win any design awards but is itself considerably smaller than other Dell desktops.

It's hard to see the Studio Hybrid faring too well among longtime, value-minded Dell customers. This model seems best understood as a little brother of the XPS One that Dell introduced last year—a sleek, all-in-one model clearly inspired by Apple's iMac.

Bill Tancer uses the web to capture human nature

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Think your furtive late-night Googling is private? As global research manager for the online intelligence firm Hitwise, Bill Tancer creeps into our computers to study the psychology of our searches. His first book, "Click: What Millions of People Are Doing Online and Why It Matters," has just hit the shelves.

Q. What do people want to know about the presidential candidates?

A. On the McCain side, there's a search fascination with his daughter, Meghan, and the fact that she had lunch with Heidi Montag at Ivy in Santa Monica.

Out of 1,900 different searches related to Obama, the number seven term was "Obama Antichrist." ... The search has been around for several weeks and seems to be increasing. Seventeen percent of searchers end up at Snopes, the urban legend site. ... It says the rumor is false.

Q. Politics aside, are there other things we search for on a seasonal basis?

A. Engagement rings are an interesting example. Searches for rings spike the week before Thanksgiving. My analyst who discovered that pattern has an ultimatum theory: Girl bringing home Guy for the holiday initiates "the talk," tells him they have to be engaged or they're through.

Q. And the engagement ring spike is followed by a surge in pregnancy searches around the first of January?

A. We followed the breadcrumb trail and looked at the sites searchers were visiting in January. Turns out, they were dominated by women in the 35-44 age group. ... We think these January (pregnancy) searchers might be career women who have been putting off families, who maybe thought, "You know what? Let's make this a goal this year."

Q. In offline surveys, people listed their top phobias as expected things: bugs, heights and closed spaces. Online, people's top phobia searches were things like fear of rejection, intimacy and people.

A. Online, the social fears show up much higher. ... And that makes sense — if you had a social phobia, you'd be less likely to participate in a survey to begin with. And if you did, you wouldn't want to admit it. If you get down to the tail of our online fear list, it's absolutely fascinating. I wouldn't imagine someone publicly admitting to fear of elbows, but it's on our list. Or fear of ceiling fans. Fear of bellybutton lint is on there, too.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: The software for my camera, a Canon PowerShot SD750, seems incompatible with Windows Vista. When I plug the camera into the computer, nothing happens.

A: The mistake here was to install any driver software at all — not just for this camera, but for pretty much any other model. Modern operating systems don't need that help: I haven't had to load camera drivers in years, whether I've been using Windows, Mac OS X or Linux.

Installing whatever drivers come on a camera's CD may merely gunk up a Windows XP system. But Vista employs a different framework for drivers, so older ones will either fail to install or break afterward. You can check for these conflicts by running Device Manager (type that name into the search box in Vista's Start menu) and looking for any yellow warning triangles in its list of installed components.

The fix here was to use Device Manager to uninstall the driver: double-click it, then click the "Driver" tab and click "Uninstall."

■■■

Q: I have a Sony alarm clock with a TV tuner that lets it play the audio of local broadcasts. Next year's change to digital transmission will eliminate this capability. Do you have any ideas about what to do about that?

A: Correct, this clock radio will stop receiving local TV stations on Feb. 17, 2009, when almost all of them will end analog broadcasts. And there's nothing you can do to fix that.

The crazy thing is, you can still find "AM/FM/TV" radios on sale, even when analog TV has less than six months left to live. And in some cases — for instance, a Sony alarm clock listed for $50 at Sears' Web site — customers don't even get a warning that a radio's TV feature will stop working next year. What are these manufacturers and retailers thinking?

TECHNOLOGY BYTES

Peek is e-mail on the go, and that's it

NEW YORK (AP)—It's hard to remember now, but the first BlackBerry devices weren't phones. They were two-way e-mail pagers that couldn't be used for calls. Now a New York-based startup is betting it can fill the niche the BlackBerry abandoned. It has made a sleek, $100 e-mail pager called the Peek that hits Target Corp. stores Monday. The goal of the Peek is to reach the people who don't already have e-mail on their phones and may be intimidated by today's feature-rich "smart" phones, like BlackBerrys, BlackJacks and iPhones. The Peek does e-mail and nothing more: no phone calls, no Web surfing, no camera. The service fee is $20 a month, with no contract.

Facebook unveils new look with a new approach

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Beginning Wednesday, Facebook begins forcing its 100 million users to adapt to a redesigned Web site, whether they like the new look or not. Since unveiling the makeover seven weeks ago, Facebook had left it up to users to decide whether they wanted to switch over. If they didn't like what they saw, the converts could just click on a link to switch back to the old format. But that option will be taken away from all users by the end of the week, a shift that founder Mark Zuckerberg already knows will alienate some of Facebook's audience and raise the risk of driving more traffic to rival social networks like MySpace and Bebo. About 40 million users already have checked out the new design and about 30 million embraced it without reverting to the old look, Zuckerberg said.

Creator of Web spots a flaw in Internet Explorer

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Berners-Lee, the British-born inventor of the World Wide Web, says he doesn't like to express preferences among Web browsers. But he does have an issue with one of them: Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer. Berners-Lee, director of the standard-setting World Wide Web Consortium, or W3C, said in an interview this week that Internet Explorer is falling behind other browsers in the way it handles an important graphics feature for Web pages. A Web image that is encoded as a scalable vector graphic, or SVG, can be resized to fit the computer screen or zoomed into without becoming blocky and losing sharpness, as happens with images encoded as the more traditional "bitmaps." Maps are one popular use of SVG. While Firefox, Safari and other browsers have built-in support for SVG, Microsoft relies on a plug-in from Adobe Systems Inc. that must be downloaded before Internet Explorer can show SVG objects.

Life & Style

'Twist' named top song of Billboard Hot 100 era

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—How's this for a twist: Of all the No. 1 songs in the 50 years of the Billboard Hot 100 chart, Chubby Checker's "The Twist" ranks as the most popular single.

Elvis and the Beatles didn't even make the top five.

Checker's ranking may come as a surprise to some, but not to the classic rocker.

"I'm glad they've finally recognized it," said Checker of his early 1960s hit.

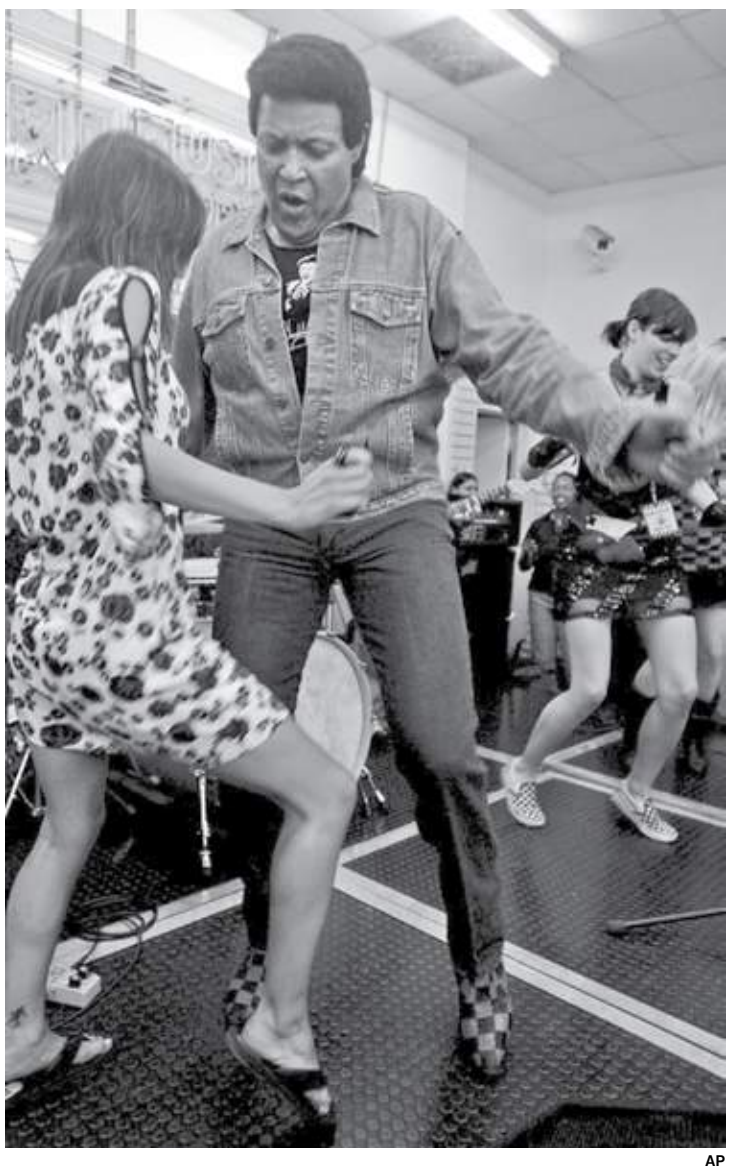
He compared "The Twist" - named by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum as one of the 500 songs that shaped rock 'n' roll - to the creation of the telephone as a groundbreaking moment because he said it was the first time people were dancing "apart to the beat."

"Anyplace on the planet, when someone has a song that has a beat, they're on the floor dancing apart to the beat, and before Chubby Checker, it wasn't here, and I think that has a lot to do with me being on the charts," he said.

Santana's "Smooth," featuring Rob Thomas, is the No. 2 most popular, followed by Bobby Darin's "Mack the Knife," Leann Rimes' "How Do I Live" and "The Macarena" by Los Del Rio.

The Beatles did make the top 10, coming it at No. 8 with "Hey Jude." But Olivia Newton-John's "Physical" and Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life" are ahead of that hit. Rounding out the top 10: Mariah Carey's "We Belong Together" at No. 9 and Toni Braxton's "Un-break My Heart" at No. 10.

Geoff Mayfield, director of charts at Billboard magazine, acknowledged that the list might not jibe with some fans' personal thoughts of the most popular songs of the past 50 years.



AP

In this Aug. 19, 2008 file photo, Chubby Checker is joined by a fan as he dances the Twist during a special in-store concert to promote his latest CD, "Knock Down The Walls" in New York.

"This is simply a chronicle of how each of these songs performed in their era on the Hot 100. We're not saying these are the most memorable songs of your life. That would be something that's almost impossible to determine," said Mayfield. "Everyone has a subjective frame of reference."

The Beatles do top Billboard's all-time Hot 100 artists, followed by Madonna, Elton John, Elvis Presley, Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and the Rolling Stones. Billboard.com is breaking out some of the other chart achievements (the list of most No. 1 singles by an act is topped by the Beatles) on its Web site.

The Billboard Hot 100 chart measures airplay and sales information (and more recently digital downloads) in determining the nation's most popular songs. To determine the most popular song of the Hot 100 era, Billboard used a formula to determine the top song—not always relying on weeks at No. 1 since the data was reported differently in its early days.

Initially, Billboard relied on stations to report the most popular songs, and got sales surveys from record stores. But Mayfield said stations often stopped reporting on a song's popularity if it was no longer a priority for record labels. And in 1991, Billboard began relying on sales data from Nielsen SoundScan and airplay data from Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems. So Billboard weighted certain songs from different eras to make sure all songs were on an even playing field.

"We went through each era, and we looked through the rate of turnover. The rate of turnover was very high in the late '50s and early '60s, and we had to put a weight on that to make the chart runs of that era equal to the chart runs that can be accomplished since 1991," he said.

Checker's "The Twist" spent a total of only three weeks at the top of the charts, but did so twice in two separate runs more than a year apart.

"It's the only song that was ever No. 1 in two different chart runs," he said.

Checker said he was gratified that Billboard noted the popularity of "The Twist," and lamented that both the song and his career have been at times overlooked.

"My music is less played than any performer that has been a No. 1 chart man on the planet," said Checker, who also had hits with "Pony Time," "The Fly" and "Let's Twist Again," which earned him a Grammy. "I don't get the respect that Rod Stewart gets, or the Rolling Stones, or Frankie Valli. ... But I have to deal with it."

Don LaFontaine's voice was an attraction itself

By HANK STUEVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

In a world of people who all coyly say "In a world..." and everyone gets the joke...

In a world where the trailers are almost always better than the movies...

In a world where everything sounds pompous, intense, serious, heart-stopping, but narrated...

In a world of people who all have some sort of private omniscient voice-over running things inside their heads, sometimes God, sometimes Mom, and sometimes Don LaFontaine...

In a world where marketing is far more important than content... came one man...with a Voice.

In a world that had outgrown the voices of dictators and newsreels and Walter Cronkite...

AP

In this Feb. 14, 2007 file photo Don LaFontaine, a voice over actor, records a commercial in his recording studio at his Silver Lake home in Los Angeles. LaFontaine, the voice behind thousands of Hollywood movie trailers, died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008 at age 68.

In a world Don LaFontaine never made, but understood...

In a world where the most compelling parts of politics and sports and wars aren't the speeches anymore but the movies, the clip montage...

In a world that believed deeply in the potency of the words Coming Soon...

In a world that moved so fast it got ahead of the Voice, and so a lot of movie trailers don't have voice-overs anymore, not his Voice (or worse, they mock the idea of the Voice by mimicking the Voice.)...

In a world where the font choice is more important than the Voice, because every moviegoer now has the Voice implanted in his or her head, like standard software, so when we read the type, we read it to ourselves in Don LaFontaine's Voice...

In a world where eyewitnesses describe real things, real events as being "like, in a movie"...

In a world where Don LaFontaine could become famous for voicing 5,000 movie trailers and countless other things we heard on television, where he could show up at the Oscars and be known, where he could pop up in car insurance commercials...in a world where people looked nothing like they sounded, especially Don LaFontaine...

In a world suddenly without Don LaFontaine, who died Monday at 68 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, of lung failure, brought on by undetermined causes...(Cedars-Sinai being a world where the famous newly dead go on to other coming attractions).

In a world, in a world.

In a world where we'll be talking like him forever, to one another, for dramatic effect...

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
2. ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.
3. ***The Obama Nation***, by Jerome R. Corsi (Threshold Editions: $28) The reasons against an Obama presidency and why he should be defeated.
4. ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.
5. ***sTORI Telling***, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The old-school 90210 star tells all.
6. ***The Wrecking Crew***, by Thomas Frank (Metropolitan Books: $25) How power-brokering Washington, D.C., is mired in corruption.
7. ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
8. ***Are You There***, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.
9. ***The Case Against Barack Obama***, by David Freddoso (Regnery: $27.95) An expose of the Democratic nominee for president.
10. ***The Night of the Gun***, by David Carr (Simon & Schuster: $26) A reporter's memoir of drug addiction, cancer and fatherhood.

Fiction

1. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99). The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality as a vampire.
2. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22). A writer's correspondence with an island's inhabitants in the aftermath of German occupation.
3. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.
4. ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99). Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.
5. ***The Bourne Sanction***, by Eric Van Lustbader (Grand Central: $25.99). The latest installment of the Robert Ludlum franchise finds Jason Bourne tracking suspected terrorists involved in the death of a former Georgetown student.
6. ***The 19th Wife***, by David Ebershoff (Random House: $26). Two narratives intertwine in this story of polygamy, past and present.
7. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95). A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.
8. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95). A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.
9. ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95). A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.
10. ***The Enchantress of Florence***, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26). A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

For Guy Ritchie, a return to formula

By JOHN HORN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON—Like many English pubs, the Punch Bowl carries quite a history. The Mayfair drinking establishment first started serving ale in the middle of the 18th century, when King George II ruled. Like some pockets of London, though, the two-story tavern turned into a grimy relic of a forgotten era—the janitor did the pub's cooking and the beer was as uninspiring as the ambience.

And then filmmaker Guy Ritchie bought the place.

The pub's scary meat pies have since been pushed aside by organic smoked salmon, and authentic, hand-pulled British pints have replaced the modern, soulless lagers.

"I love pubs, I love pubs," Ritchie said during a recent visit to his bar as the refurbishment of the Punch Bowl was just beginning. "Pubs just happen to be one of those institutions that are just quintessentially English, and four pubs a day shut down in the U.K."

The Punch Bowl isn't Ritchie's only restoration project.

The 39-year-old writer and director is also trying to breathe life into his own filmmaking career. After a commercial and critical slump that included "Revolver" and the remake "Swept Away" (which starred his wife, Madonna), Ritchie, with his new movie, "RocknRolla," is returning to the genre that established his cinematic identity: the British gangster movie.

In 1998, Ritchie and producing partner Matthew Vaughn made "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," a low-budget London crime caper that overflowed with kinetic visuals, colorful dialogue and distinctive heavies. The drama grossed more than $100 million worldwide, and two years later Ritchie and Vaughn collaborated on "Snatch," which helped to further Ritchie's subspecies of stylishly violent British crime stories; similar efforts included Vaughn's "Layer Cake" and Paul McGuigan's "Gangster No. 1."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Guy Ritchie's British crime-caper 'RocknRolla' gets him back into the genre where he made his reputation a decade ago.

But while Ritchie's honor-among-thieves movies always had exhibited a complex mix of attitude, nihilism and convoluted plotting, the combination proved caustic to 2005's "Revolver," which was drubbed by critics and ignored by moviegoers. Even "300's" Gerard Butler, who stars in "RocknRolla," admits he didn't see it.

"I think it's impossible for a movie like that to do well. It's an inaccessible concept," Ritchie said in a postmortem of his movie about revenge, self-doubt and philosophy, "because it's about the idea that there is essentially no such thing as an external enemy, that ultimately you are the enemy."

What Ritchie needed, in other words, was a more clear-cut story of good versus evil. He began developing a remake of "The Dirty Dozen" with "Matrix" producer Joel Silver, and while that movie was grinding along in development, Ritchie decided he needed to get behind the cameras—and soon.

So he sent his "RocknRolla" script to Silver and producing partner Susan Downey, whose new Dark Castle deal allows them to make movies other than horror films (which have included "House of Wax" and "Gothika") for Warner Bros.

"It brings to mind the other movies," Downey said of "RocknRolla," "but it also advances them. It's a return to form and an advancement of form."

Downey and Silver will produce Ritchie's first American studio film, next year's "Sherlock Holmes," which stars Downey's husband, Robert Downey Jr.

Butler believes that with "RocknRolla," which opens Oct. 8, Ritchie has returned to where he excelled. "I don't think anybody believes we can do `300' business on this," he said, "but I think we have a great film on our hands."

Like Ritchie's best work, "RocknRolla" is filled with memorably duplicitous characters: a deceitful accountant (Thandie Newton), an equal-opportunity thug (Butler), a strung-out but savvy rock star (Toby Kebbell), a double-dealing crime boss Lenny Cole (Tom Wilkinson) and his not altogether loyal aide-de-camp, Archie (Mark Strong).

The setting is low-rent thuggery (although the film is largely free of Ritchie's sometimes explicit violence), but the impetus is immigration and London's rapidly evolving cultural and financial mix. Billionaire Russians are behind a suspicious land deal, and Lenny believes he can line his own pockets along the way.

Lenny also thinks he can still run the town, but the Russians have more pull. "There's something wrong with these immigrants," Lenny says at one point. "I don't trust them." Coming from a backstabber like Lenny, it's almost high praise.

"It's the natural changing of the guard. He's just simply being eclipsed by bigger guns. He's desperately trying to retain his position," said Ritchie, who has also been working on a documentary about what he calls "the esoteric aspects of religion."

Russians and real estate are very much the news in London; oligarchs from the former Soviet Union have been buying half of all local mansions valued at more than $30 million. The city's skyline is dotted with construction cranes, and London will host the next summer Olympics, in 2012.

"I think there's more building taking place in the last five years than took place within the 300 years or something previously," Ritchie said. "It's gone mad, and the labor force is mostly foreign. The place is alive."

How to keep a career fresh

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

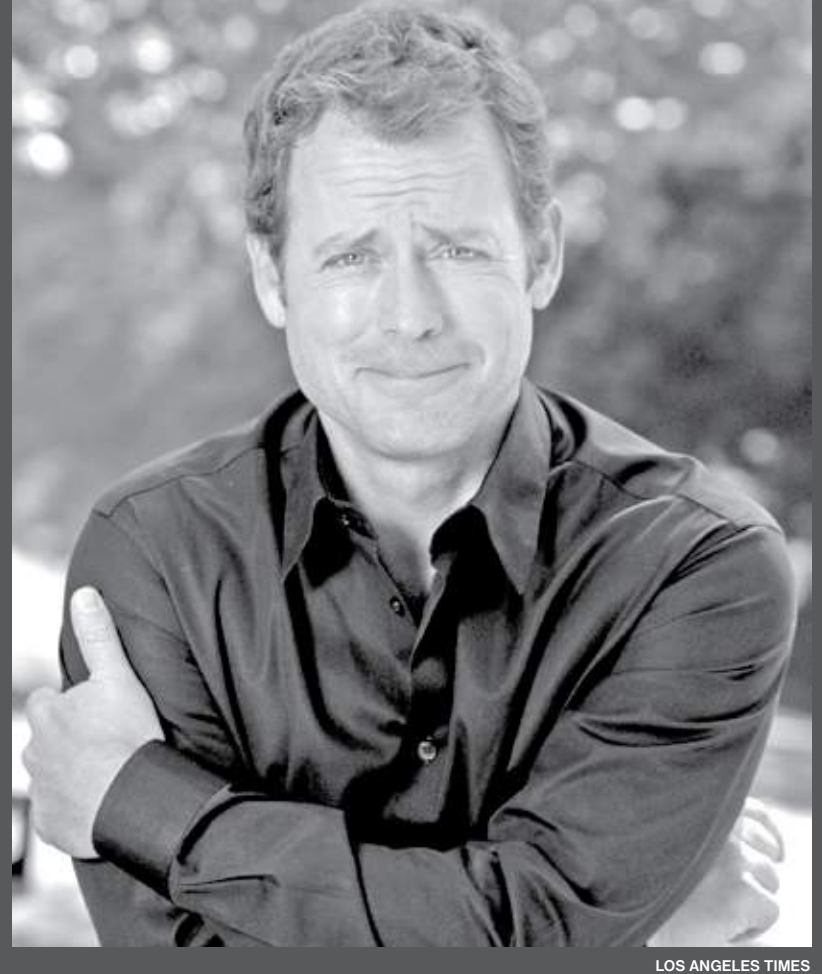
HOLLYWOOD—Actor Greg Kinnear nearly skipped his breakfast meeting at a local restaurant on a recent summer day. Had Hollywood ego gotten the better of him? Or was he just plain rude? No, nothing like that. He's human, that's all. He'd misplaced his car keys, looked everywhere but was coming up empty.

But then, that's what happens when you have two little girls who like to play with jangly keys.

It's that kind of endearing regular-guyness that allows Kinnear to be equally believable as the harried father of a budding child beauty queen ("Little Miss Sunshine"), as the charming suitor of Tina Fey ("Baby Momma") or, in two fall films, as a recently deceased man protective of his widow in "Ghost Town," opening Sept. 19, and as an underdog inventor in "Flash of Genius," set for an Oct. 3 release.

At breakfast, the tousled-haired Kinnear says he's grateful he hasn't been typecast.

Still, he adds, "like all things, it's a blessing and a curse. There is probably added simplicity to a career where you can be identified for the kinds of roles you can—and should—play as an actor. I am sure with me, it's the second or third meeting (for a role) that people come around and say, `You know, he could do that.' I don't think a lot of times I am the obvious choice."



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Greg Kinnear stars in two films this fall with the comedy "Ghost Town" and "Flash Of Genius."

He doesn't like to make obvious choices for himself either, preferring to swim against the current, as he describes it.

"If I see something that feels a little different or feels out of the zone of something I just did, I am instantly attracted to it," he says.

"Ghost Town" is a spirited romantic comedy from writer-director David Koepp that finds Kinnear playing a New York ghost who doesn't like his wife's (Tea Leoni) attorney fiance (Billy Campbell), so he asks the only person who can see him, a cranky dentist (Ricky Gervais), to break up the relationship.

"I thought David Koepp's script was magnificent, and Ricky Gervais—I was and have been a fan since his first dive into `The Office,' " says Kinnear.

When he learned Gervais was going to be in the film, Kinnear didn't hesitate to join up. "I thought it would be funny and a good romp. It was a blast making it."

That wasn't the case with "Flash of Genius," a period drama about Robert Kearns, an engineering professor in Detroit who invented the intermittent windshield wiper in the 1960s.

"Funny enough, the original title of the script was `Windshield Wiper Man,' " he says, laughing. "That was just enough to make me not read it. For almost two months, it sat on my desk. In the climate of today's movies, I thought it was a comedic superhero."

"Flash of Genius" is anything but. The drama follows the nearly two decades of litigation Kearns pursued against Ford Motor Co., claiming the company infringed on his patents. His single-minded obsession alienated his friends, his wife and their six children.

When curiosity got the better of him and Kinnear finally decided to read the script, he couldn't put it down.

"It just held me," he says. "I found him to be as infuriating as he was inspiring. The fact that he was a flawed guy and this script acknowledged that. . . . They didn't put a kind of fake glow on this hero character that is going to beat the big guy. They showed him warts and all. He was determined and uncompromising. He put his life and his family and his wife—all of that—on the back burner in order to find justice."

Kinnear was given a lot of photographs and saw filmed interviews of Kearns, who died in 2005. He spoke to the man's wife and children. He dyed his hair, put on weight and wore brown contacts. All the preparation helped to give him structure.

Still, he says, "I can never be somebody else. When I do a role like this you bring 85 percent of yourself to the role. But I felt like I had a very strong connection to who he was as an individual. I felt very emotional reading his story."

'Paris, Not France' reveals smarter side of Hilton

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

TORONTO (AP)—Paris Hilton's new reality show, the documentary "Paris, Not France," reveals a not-so-simple life in which the dumb blonde of her TV infamy is scarcely to be found.

Director Adria Petty gained rare access to Hilton and her inner circle, presenting a behind-the-scenes portrait of the privilege, preening and planning that went into creating the Hilton tabloid phenomenon.

From family videos of grade-school-aged Hilton playing with a bunny to brisk marketing meetings at which she and advisers discuss the "Paris" brand, the documentary offers a lively, sympathetic glimpse into the business of being a manufactured celebrity adored by many and despised by many more.

"I really wanted to make a film about her that was not negative but that wasn't stupid, that really explored the voyeurism inherent in her creation as a new media star," said Petty, the 33-year-old daughter of rocker Tom Petty, in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival on Wednesday, a day after "Paris, Not France" premiered.

"But at the same time, I didn't in any way want to kind of hate on her or do anything that's already been done. When you think about how much has been done about her and how many different vantage points she's been shot from and how many different ways she's been discussed, the only options left were to actually get a little bit more intellectual about it and think a little more about: Why do we watch?"

Petty met Hilton while working as a marketing consultant at Warner Bros. Records, which released Hilton's 2006 pop album. For the film, Hilton agreed to let Petty tag along for a year, sitting in on business and promotional trips, sessions with reporters and photographers, even routine errands.

Hilton already had seen the film but attended the premiere Tuesday night, later having dinner with Petty.

"I think she was really proud of it. She likes the filmmaking and she likes seeing herself in this kind of new way I've shot her. She was stoked with it," Petty said.

The documentary features candid interviews with Hilton, her parents and sister, gossip columnists and cultural observers examining her celebrity and offering insights on the dumb-blonde facade that fronts it.

AP

Paris Hilton arrives for the Rich Prosecco beverage launch during the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival on Monday, Sept. 8, 2008 in Toronto.

Hilton notes that the airhead image was heavily due to the persona she copped on her reality show "The Simple Life," saying network executives wanted it to be a cross between "`Legally Blonde' and `Green Acres.' They wanted me to be really dumb."

"Paris, Not France" shows a much more self-possessed and well-spoken Hilton. While driving her car, Hilton delivers a long, anguished monologue, discussing her horror over the sex tape with a former boyfriend that found its way on to the Internet. She states that she did not remember filming it, then concludes with her characteristic humor: "I looked gross in that video."

Among the other nuggets revealed in "Paris, Not France":

■ Hilton reads a gossip magazine, sharing a laugh about an item over Britney Spears' supposed fears that Hilton might try to steal Kevin Federline away from her.

■ A TV interviewer asks Hilton what superpower she would want. Hilton replies, "To fly and be invisible and to disappear."

■ Hilton states that she loves to sleep as much as she can, continuing to snooze in bed in the morning while her hair and makeup are done.

■ She reveals some of her scary dreams, including one where her teeth fall out and one where her brakes fail while she's driving the steep hills of San Francisco.

■ While strolling with her cell phone pressed to her ear, Hilton confesses to the camera, "I pretend to be on the phone all the time so people don't talk to me."

Petty initially found it tough to draw Hilton out. Then she discovered that for Hilton, getting behind the wheel of her car was like entering a confessional.

"It took me a long time to figure it out, because I was like, I can't get a good interview out of this chick. I don't know what to do," Petty said. "Then in the car, it was like this magic moment where here was this articulate, feeling, thinking person who could convey what was on her mind.

Manager: 'Fletch' author Gregory Mcdonald dies

PULASKI, Tenn. (AP)—Gregory Mcdonald, whose best-selling "Fletch" mystery books also were made into films, has died, according to his manager. He was 71.

Mcdonald died Sunday at his antebellum farm in Pulaski, Tenn., about 60 miles southwest of Nashville, according to Mcdonald's manager, David List. List said Wednesday that Mcdonald had been diagnosed with cancer.

"Fletch," published in 1974, was the first in a series of books about an investigative reporter named Irwin M. Fletcher. Actor Chevy Chase portrayed the lead character in the 1985 movie "Fletch" and the 1989 sequel "Fletch Lives."

Mcdonald twice won the Edgar Allen Poe Award by the Mystery Writers of America and published 26 books, including "Running Scared," "Flynn," and "The Brave." He also was a journalist with the Boston Globe.

List said no funeral is planned, as requested by Mcdonald, but a memorial service may be held later.

"When the Fletch novels came out, they sold over 100 million copies," List said. "He told me that he got to experience what very few writers got to experience, which was being a celebrity."

List said the Harvard graduate moved to Tennessee in 1986 to avoid that celebrity, but he continued to write. His last book, "Souvenirs of a Blown World," a republished collection of his writings while at the Globe, will be released in early November, according to Dan Simon, the publisher at Seven Stories Press.

After moving to Pulaski, Mcdonald became an outspoken opponent of white supremacists who wanted to march there because the city was where the Ku Klux Klan originated.

He is survived by his wife, Cherlye, and five children, List said.

Kenny Chesney leads CMA nominations with 7

NASHVILLE (AP)—Kenny Chesney, the Country Music Association's reigning entertainer of the year, dominated the CMA Award nominations on Wednesday with seven, including album of the year.

Chesney was also nominated for entertainer of the year again, a category he has won for the past two years. Other nominees for the award included Brad Paisley, Keith Urban, George Strait and Sugarland.

"Mornings like this is where you know the music that means so much to you means something to other people, too," Chesney said.

Strait and Sugarland each received five nominations, including single of the year - Strait for "I Saw God Today," and Sugarland for "Stay."

Other multiple nominees included Paisley, Urban, Carrie Underwood and Alan Jackson.

Underwood's "Carnival Ride," Chesney's "Just Who I Am: Poets & Pirates," and Jackson's "Good Time" were nominated for album of the year along with Strait's "Troubadour" and Brooks & Dunn's "Cowboy Town."

Other CMA nominees included Taylor Swift and Rascal Flatts, who were on hand to reveal some of the nominees during a live announcement on Wednesday's ABC's "Good Morning America" in New York.

The 18-year-old Swift, who last year won CMA's Horizon award for upcoming acts, giggled excitedly when her name was read as a nominee for female vocalist of the year, a category that included Alison Krauss, Miranda Lambert, Martina McBride and Underwood, who won the award the past two years.

"I can't believe it!" Swift said. "I'm having a really good morning."

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Righteous Kill
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
A serial murderer walks the streets of Manhattan, targeting violent felons who have fallen through the cracks of the judicial system. All the victims are suspected criminals whose bodies are found accompanied by a four line poem justifying the killing. The killer's mission is to do what the cops can't do on their own—take the bad guys off the streets for good. When a notorious pimp becomes one of the killer's victims, highly decorated detectives Turk and Rooster are called in to investigate. This case could easily be the biggest one in their 30 years on the force.

Tyler Perry's Family That Preys
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Wealthy socialite Charlotte Cartwright and her dear friend Alice Pratt, a working class woman of high ideals, have enjoyed a lasting friendship throughout many years. Suddenly, their lives become mired in turmoil as their adult children's extramarital affairs, unethical business practices and a dark paternity secret threaten to derail family fortunes and unravel the lives of all involved. Alice's self-centered newlywed daughter Andrea is betraying her trusting husband Chris by engaging in a torrid affair with her boss and mother's best friend's son William.

★ ★ ★

Bangkok Dangerous
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:00
Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Babylon A.D.
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:10
Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Traitor
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:25
Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Tropic Thunder
Friday @ 7:15 9:30
Saturday @ @ 7:15 9:30
Sunday @ @ 7:15
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:15
Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Friday 4:15 @ @
Saturday 1:10 4:15 @ @
Sunday 1:10 4:15 @
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 @
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Catch a flick with your favorite celeb for $25

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sit beside Steve Martin for a screening of "The Jerk," share a theater with Mike Myers for a showing of "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" or squirm in your seat alongside Jodie Foster during "The Silence of the Lambs."

These stars—along with Dustin Hoffman, Cameron Diaz, Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, Jim Carrey, Shirley MacLaine, Rita Moreno and Keanu Reeves—will share some of their most famous films with their fans next month at "Target Presents AFI Night at the Movies."

The one-night-only event is set to take over the ArcLight theater in Hollywood on Oct. 1, the American Film Institute announced Wednesday. The idea is to bring filmmakers and fans together to celebrate American movies, said AFI chief Bob Gazzale.

"It is a fireworks show of American film," he said, "and AFI's honor to celebrate the artists and their contributions to the rich cultural legacy of our nation."

Tickets are $25 and will be available beginning Sept. 17.

The complete list of stars and films:

- Connery, "The Man Who Would Be King.
- Bening, "American Beauty."
- Carrey, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."
- Diaz, "There's Something About Mary."
- Foster, "The Silence of the Lambs."
- Hoffman, "Tootsie."
- MacLaine, "The Apartment."
- Martin, "The Jerk."
- Moreno, "West Side Story."
- Myers, "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."
- Reeves, "The Matrix."
- Washington, "Glory."

AP

In this June 26, 2008 file photo, Dustin Hoffman arrives for the premiere of his new film 'Kung Fu Panda' in Leicester Square, London.

Rob Thomas spends more time primping than his wife

NEW YORK (AP)—Rob Thomas says he spends more time primping than his wife, model Marisol.

"She's the most stylish, but I take longer to get ready," the 36-year-old singer said Wednesday while the couple admired the Marchesa presentation at the Chelsea Art Museum in Manhattan.

"If I were more stylish, I would take less time. But I have no vision, so I have to try on everything at first to see if I want to wear it. She can tell right away what's gonna work and what's not gonna work. But I have to put on the pants, put on the shirt, put on the jacket, put on seventeen other jackets," he explained.

Thomas, whose hits include "Push," "3 A.M." and "Smooth," said he's less vain than fearful that he'll "look like an idiot."

Marisol Thomas wore a black lace dress by Marchesa, while her husband sported a suit coat and pants—and his signature shaggy haircut.

ABC plans prime-time Palin special

NEW YORK (AP)—Charles Gibson's interviews with Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will form the basis of a special prime-time edition of "20/20" Friday, ABC said Wednesday.

Gibson is traveling to Fairbanks and Wasilla, Alaska, for the first TV interviews with Palin since she was selected as John McCain's running mate. The first excerpts of the talks will be shown on "World News" Thursday.

Gibson is having three separate interviews with Palin, ABC said. Parts of the interviews will be spread around other ABC news programs, including "Nightline" and "Good Morning America."

The prime-time special, at 10 p.m. EDT, will also include a bio of Palin by ABC's Kate Snow and a round-table discussion on the presidential race moderated by George Stephanopoulos.

The Alaska Republican has proven to be a ratings-grabber during her short time on the national political scene. Her speech to the GOP national convention last week was seen by more than 40 million people, according to Nielsen Media Research.

A Fox News Channel documentary, "Governor Palin: An American Woman" last Saturday was the highest-rated prime-time documentary in the network's history, with 2.7 million viewers.

CNN is also planning a Palin special this weekend.

In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks on behalf of victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and their supporters at a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

AP

Soderbergh's epic 'Che' lands US distributor

TORONTO (AP)—Steven Soderbergh's Che Guevara film biography "Che" has found a U.S. distributor that will release it in theaters this December to qualify for the Academy Awards.

IFC Films announced Wednesday it acquired domestic rights to the two-part, 4 1/2-hour saga, which stars Benicio Del Toro as the Argentine doctor who became one of the heroes of Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution.

The film will play a one-week qualifying run in Los Angeles and New York in December for Oscar consideration. It will reopen in theaters in January and be available to cable and satellite subscribers through IFC's movies-on-demand service.

"Che" earned Del Toro the best-actor prize in May at the Cannes Film Festival, where the film premiered. The acquisition was announced at the Toronto International Film Festival, where "Che" also screened.

"'Che' is nothing less than the film event of the year," said Jonathan Sehring, IFC Films president. "By giving us the rise and fall of one of the great icons of history, Steven Soderbergh and Benicio Del Toro, who gives an incredible soulful performance, have humanized him and given audiences around the world something that will be discussed for years to come."

In this May 22, 2008 file photo, Steven Soderburgh talks at the "Che" press conference during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

AP

Ann Hamilton wins Heinz Award

By SUZANNE MUCHNIC
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ann Hamilton—an artist known for delicately evocative installations created from masses of unconventional materials, who represented the U.S. at the 1999 Venice Biennale—has won this year's Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities. The professor of art at Ohio State University in Columbus with an international resume was cited as "a provocative visual artist whose installations around the world have woven a broad palette of media into engaging sensory environments."

Hamilton, 52, will receive her $250,000 award Oct. 21 at a private ceremony in Pittsburgh along with awardees in four other categories: environment; human condition; public policy; and technology, the economy and employment. The Heinz Awards are presented annually by the Heinz Family Foundation, chaired by Teresa Heinz Kerry, in memory of her late husband, Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania.

Different political views bring on family's scorn

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have come to dread family gatherings. My extended family holds a different political perspective than I. It seems like at every occasion they sit around and expound on the good points of their candidate or elected official, while belittling the opposition and ridiculing his or her supporters. I have tried on several occasions to change the subject or tell them I don't wish to discuss politics, to no avail.

Recently at a family party, I sat down with some relatives I hadn't seen in a long time in an effort to reconnect. They soon began their political bashing. I excused myself to go to the bathroom, only to discover that while I was gone they had discussed my political leanings. When I attempted to go to another room, a relative asked whom I was voting for. I said my vote was a private matter—and the statement prompted peals of laughter in the room.

I would really like to spend time with my family, but with the elections coming up, I feel the need to avoid them. Please assist me on how to handle this.

NO POLITICS (OR RELIGION) PLEASE, IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NO P. OR R.: The surest way is to avoid them until all the votes are counted, after which they'll be so weary of politics that you won't be bothered again—until the next election.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 25-year-old woman who moved in with a friend, "Natasha," who is also 25, after her boyfriend of seven years kicked her out three months ago.

One of the conditions of my moving in was that I'd get to use her car for work and errands because I'd be moving out of my mother's house and had shared Mom's car.

Well, I accidentally spilled a drink in Natasha's car while I was using it, and she revoked my privilege to drive it. I'm looking for a car of my own, but I have already spent a great deal of money to move in with Natasha and help her in her time of need.

I understand that the car is Natasha's property, and she can do with it as she pleases. But I'm concerned that she went back on her word so quickly into our living situation. She has now started leaving me nasty, belittling little notes and is scathing with her choice of words. She refuses to talk to me and will communicate with me now only through writing. I'd like to take the high road, but I'm having a hard time finding it.

Until now, I enjoyed living with her, and I don't want to end our arrangement. How can I have backbone but still be a good friend and roommate?

STRANDED IN A SMALL TOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR STRANDED: Because of the way your roommate is acting, it may not be possible. While I can understand Natasha being upset about the drink you spilled in her car, it appears she has gone a little over the top—unless there are other things about you that also make her angry. (Was the vehicle cleaned to her satisfaction after the mishap?)

It would be helpful if you could have a frank, face-to-face discussion. You need to hear what's on her mind, minus the nastiness. If she is unwilling, then you should look for other living arrangements as soon as possible.

P.S. Wouldn't it be interesting if the reason for her change in attitude is a desire to reunite with her boyfriend?

■ ■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO ALAN McDERMOTT IN KANSAS CITY, DEAR ABBY'S BRILLIANT EDITOR SINCE 1980 WHO RETIRES TODAY: Thank you for your many years of kindness, conscientiousness and professionalism. You're always in our hearts. LOVE, ABBY

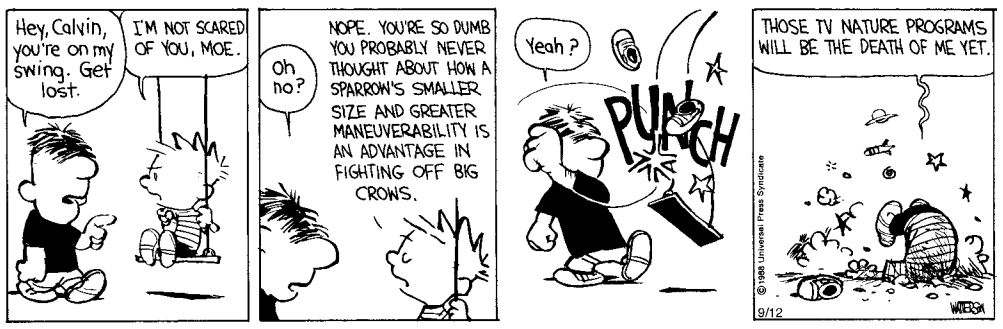
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Hey, Calvin, you're on my swing. Get lost.
I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU, MOE.
Oh no?
NOPE. YOU'RE SO DUMB YOU PROBABLY NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW A SPARROW'S SMALLER SIZE AND GREATER MANEUVERABILITY IS AN ADVANTAGE IN FIGHTING OFF BIG CROWS.
Yeah?
PUNCH
THOSE TV NATURE PROGRAMS WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME YET.
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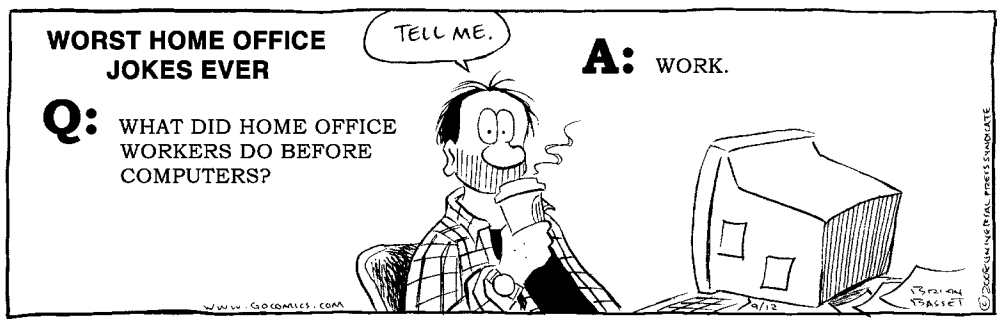
9/12
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY AREN'T YOU AT WORK?
I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK TODAY.
MY OFFICE COMPUTER CALLED IN SICK. IT HAS A VIRUS.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
9-12-08

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

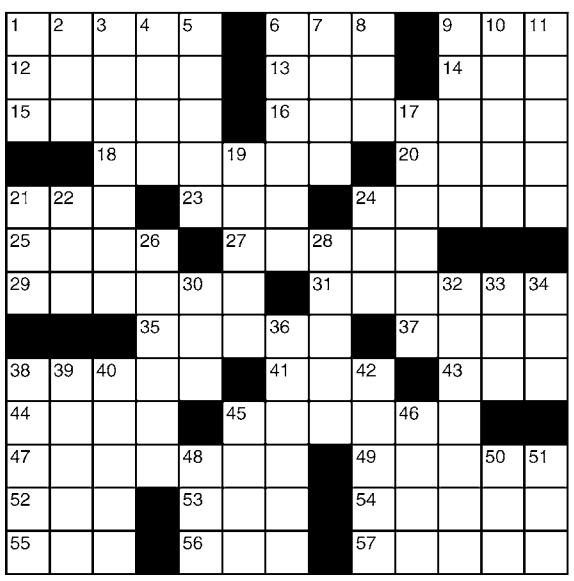
ACROSS
1 Atlanta NBA team
6 "Chicago" lyricist
9 Gas stat
12 Use
13 Round Table address
14 Verily
15 Mississippi area
16 Screen star George
18 Girl named in "The Raven"
20 Rescue
21 Eco-friendly org.
23 Confucian principle
24 Leading man?
25 Deficiency
27 Mentor
29 Put on ice
31 Confound
35 Ex-NFLer Andre, nicknamed "Bad Moon"
37 Part of MYOB
38 Tread upon forcefully
41 Ump
43 Nipper's co.
44 Revealing fashion
45 Mechanic's place
47 Inventor George
49 On the clock
52 Exist
53 Early bird?
54 Type of quartz
55 Snitch
56 "Norma —"
57 Jousting weapon

DOWN
1 Possessed
2 "Hail, Caesar!"
3 Politician George
4 Prop for Ben Franklin
5 Feature of italics
6 Third-party collateral
7 Liver secretion
8 Chum
9 Bird skilled in mimicry
10 Grievance
11 More festive
17 Turn to bone
19 Refuges
21 Sprite
22 Links standard
24 Actress Thurman
26 Henson amphibian
28 Dogpatch lad
30 Speed
32 Prize-fighter George
33 Robitaille of hockey
34 Historic period
36 Valencia, e.g.
38 Use finger-paints
39 Miss USA adornment
40 Beginning
42 Deadly
45 Enthusiastic
46 Billion (Pref.)
48 Mal de —
50 List-ending abbr.
51 Sandra or Ruby

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	D	D	S	■	J	A	M	■	S	L	A	B
P	E	R	I	■	A	L	E	■	H	U	L	A
S	E	A	T	■	C	A	R	■	A	K	I	N
E	M	B	A	R	K	■	V	A	L	E	T	S
■	■	■	R	I	B	■	■	B	O	W	■	■
O	A	R	S	■	O	T	T	O	M	A	N	S
F	B	I	■	■	O	H	O	■	■	R	I	O
F	A	C	T	O	T	U	M	■	A	M	P	S
■	■	K	I	P	■	■	O	W	L	■	■	■
B	E	S	E	T	S	■	R	E	B	U	F	F
O	A	H	U	■	T	A	R	■	I	S	L	E
A	S	A	P	■	E	G	O	■	N	E	O	N
S	E	W	S	■	P	E	W	■	O	R	E	S

Yesterday's answer 9-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emmy Rossum, 22; Benjamin McKenzie, 30; Ruben Studdard, 30; Paul Walker, 35

Happy Birthday: Put more focus on your home, family and doing things with the ones you love. Move into the role of leader within your group and you will gain confidence that will help you professionally, as well. Take a new look at love and how you relate to the person to whom you are closest. This is a year of reawakening. Your numbers are 3, 8, 15, 25, 32, 34, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can be creative and cost-efficient at the same time. Going overboard may seem appropriate but, in the end, you may draw attention that is not positive. Stay within your financial and emotional limits. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't trust someone who is talking big or trying to persuade you to make a contribution. A professional attitude will be far more impressive. Work hard and you will be recognized for your efforts. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pull out all the stops and put your heart and soul into your work, getting ahead and expanding on something you totally believe in. Love is in the picture, so make special plans for late in the day and you will enhance a relationship that is important to you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get trapped doing something that doesn't suit your style. Self-help programs or products that promise to make you look or feel better will end up being scams. Fix whatever isn't working for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Rely on friends and family to help out. A love relationship will improve if you plan a mini vacation or romantic activities. A challenge will lead you to a better understanding of what you want in the future and how to obtain it. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You don't have to take on other people's problems, especially if it takes time to from yourself or someone you love. Give advice, not cash or your time. Show your devotion or sincerity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You've got everything going for you, so don't take on too much or give in to someone who is demanding. Stick to the people who are as creative and visionary as you. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Secrets may get you into trouble. Instead, be open about what you are doing and what you want. Emotional deception can be expected from someone who is interested in you, but not for the same reasons you think. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A relationship with someone you meet through work will spin in a new direction. Before you jump in with both feet, make sure your plans won't hinder your professional future. Don't base changes on assumptions or hearsay. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There will be lots of talk of ways to get ahead, but before you get all wrapped up in the excitement, consider whether or not the plans are feasible or practical. Things are not as they appear. Jumping in too quickly could be costly. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Finish something you left undone. A settlement, legal matter or health issue can now be resolved. Love may be on the line if someone has been trying to stifle you or hold you back. It's time to follow through with your plans regardless of what's at stake. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Check out professional possibilities. Someone will offer you something that is hard to refuse. A partnership will develop but discuss what's involved and who will be responsible for what. You should put things in writing before you proceed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, original, popular, gifted and bound for the spotlight. You welcome a challenge and are a humble winner and a gracious loser.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		3		1	
2		9						
				1			2	
5								6
		6		4		9		
7								1
	3			6				
						7		5
	8		7		9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	2	4	9	3	5	6	8
9	6	5	8	2	1	3	4	7
8	3	4	6	5	7	9	1	2
1	4	9	7	8	2	6	3	5
5	2	8	1	3	6	4	7	9
6	7	3	5	4	9	2	8	1
2	8	1	3	6	5	7	9	4
3	5	7	9	1	4	8	2	6
4	9	6	2	7	8	1	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BETTE MIDLER HEADLINING IN VEGAS **Solution: 7 letters**

R	S	Y	R	A	D	N	E	G	E	L	E	T	O	H
E	H	T	H	E	T	S	I	O	L	O	S	C	A	E
M	O	I	E	P	T	T	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L
R	W	C	N	K	A	A	L	E	C	O	M	E	(D)	Y
O	G	I	R	E	C	R	E	L	S	I	G	(N)	P	T
F	I	L	E	I	S	I	G	H	I	A	(A)	O	E	S
R	R	B	S	S	V	T	T	O	T	(B)	D	A	C	R
E	L	U	I	I	N	C	O	S	E	I	M	H	A	E
P	M	P	D	E	U	A	D	N	U	R	E	A	L	H
O	R	E	E	U	M	R	A	M	E	D	O	S	A	T
R	O	M	N	N	N	B	T	N	T	U	S	A	H	P	A
T	A	I	T	E	E	N	C	L	N	G	T	I	C	E
F	A	N	S	V	R	O	E	A	R	E	N	A	L	F
M	Y	N	I	H	S	C	L	A	C	O	V	O	N	Y
T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	S	D

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Arena, Band, Bill, Choreography, Comedy, Contract, Daily, Dance, Entertainment, Event, Fame, Fans, Feathers, Hotel, Laughter, Legendary, Main, Music, Numbers, Palace, Performer, Podium, Publicity, Report, Resident, Rhinestones, Schedule, Shiny, Showgirl, Sign, Soloist, Song, Stage, Stand, Star, Style, Team, Theater, Tickets, Venue, Video, Vocal

Yesterday's Answer: Management

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 pah for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St..

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Job opportunity: Marianas Management Corporation:
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(3) Mechanic (3) Electrician
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WHATZIT Solution:
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

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DanDan Elementary School

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NOTICE
Benedicto S. Orencia (aka Jun)
Is NO longer associated with Auto Clinic Center (ACC) and has no authority to incur obligations or collect any accounts receivable or acting relating any jobs on behalf of ACC

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HIVE BEAUTY

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Danny and Anterina Kasian
P.O. Box 8056 SVRB
Saipan, MP
Telephone No.

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0465	
ASHLEY ANDON KASIAN, A Minor	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: DANNY R. KOL and ANTERINA KASIAN Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 22, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

John Wayne and
Lucia M. Techur
P.O. Box 7063 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 288-9265

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: CLOEY LUREYCE TECHUR BABAUTA Minor Child	) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0527	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
by **JOHN WAYNE TECHUR & LUCIA M. TECHUR** Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 22, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc.
has an immediate opening for the following position:

Delivery man-(4)

Apply in person or bring resume to
Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc. in Lower Base
E-mail: spnice@pticom.com

Pure Safe Sparkle Clean Drinking Water Ozonated
SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Package II Phase I Project, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-50/53.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., September 19, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:

Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA Date: August 19, 2008
Acting Executive Director

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to Wednesday October 1, 2008 at 6:00 pm, CRM Conference Room, 1st floor of the Morgen Building, San Jose. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings
1. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez final plat, lot H34NEW
3. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
F. Old Business
1. Review and approve amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
   a. Map 14. Rezone RU to VC various lots
   b. Map 19. Rezone VR to VC various lots
   c. Map 23. Rezone VR to VC, Lot 6-1, File 2008-1311
   d. Map 26. Rezone VR to MC, Lots 032 K 07 & 08, File 2008-1218
   e. Map 27. Rezone VR to VC various lots
G. New Business.
1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-035

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **MiniDV/HDV Camcorders and Accessories for Garapan Elementary School (GES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-035" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **September 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-035" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-037

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Marianas High School (MHS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 02, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-037" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-001

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Koblerville Elementary School (KoES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 08, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 08-032

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of **Bottled Water and Delivery Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-032" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-032, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Learn About Zoning on Saipan!

The Zoning Office invites the public to attend training about the Saipan Zoning Law. We extend a special invitation to:

- Builders, Developers, Engineers, Architects
- Government agencies
- People adding or changing business signs
- People opening or moving a business
- Adult business owners
- Title companies, Consultants, Document Handlers
- Anyone with a nonconforming use, structure, or sign

Attendees will get a free color zoning map of Saipan and information handouts. The training will include presentations and discussion.

Location:	Multipurpose Building, Susupe
September 16	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Introduction to Saipan Zoning
10:15 – 11:30 am	Zoning application forms and processes
September 17	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Adult Businesses – required signs, appearance, location
10:15 – 11:30 am	Signs – easy ways to meet zoning requirements

To reserve space, call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp. Download the Saipan Zoning Law and maps from www.zoning.gov.mp. Visit the Zoning Office at 2nd floor Joeten Bldg., DanDan or call 234-9661 for information.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-026

RESURFACING OF GARAPAN BASKETBALL COURT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Resurfacing of Garapan Basketball Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 12, 2008 at 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasure and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtained the project package at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 01, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at Garapan Basketball Court Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 06, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-026". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 14, 2008, and must be received no later than October 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 27, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 16, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-001

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **Mental Health Consultation Services for the Public School System's Head Start Program**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-026

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of **Sign Language and Interpreting Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Building Superintendent - CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Building Superintendent for the CNMI Judicial Branch.

NATURE OF WORK: The Building Superintendent will be responsible for supervising and directing the operation and maintenance of the Guma Hustisia (Saipan Judicial Complex) and other court facilities. Duties include: operation and maintenance of building mechanical, electrical, plumbing, structural equipment; supervising maintenance staff; review and compliance with existing laws, rules, regulations and Court policies; development of comprehensive plans and programs for court facilities; assistance in budget appropriations for operation and maintenance of court; teach and enforce safety practices; other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Superintendent should hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or 5 years of equivalent experience, and must be knowledgeable in using tools, equipment, and other related machinery required of a building engineer. The applicant also must be able to operate court vehicles.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and standard Office of Personnel Management application to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice Susupe, Saipan or mail to P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950. For additional information about this position, call (670)236-9715. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on Friday, October 3, 2008.

PUBLIC NOTICE

E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public the Department of Labor has discontinued the use of the Temporary Exit Notice. Persons holding entry permits from the Commonwealth that allow entry and exit for vacation, home leave, medical referral, or other purposes are no longer required to provide a Temporary Exit Notice. No one holding this kind of entry permit who exits the Commonwealth for a temporary stay in another jurisdiction and wishes to return to the Commonwealth will be adversely affected by the federalization cap. The Labor Department has an alternative means of assuring that every person holding this kind of entry permit will be re-admitted when they return to the Commonwealth.

The Department thanks those who patiently provided the temporary exit notices. That helped the Commonwealth comply with federal law quickly and effectively on a temporary basis. With new methods, and the Department's better automation capabilities, this temporary measure is no longer needed.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235- NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICE

E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services

employservices@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing

laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

Labor Enforcement

labor enforcement@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing

Administrative Hearing Office

laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP08-GOV- 094

Program Management: CNMI Water Task Force

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **August 22, 2008.**

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279**, no later than **Friday, September 05, 2008.**

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 19, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Angels beat Yankees, clinch 4th AL West title in 5 years

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels became the first team in Major League Baseball to clinch a playoff berth by winning their fourth American League West title in five years on Wednesday.

Francisco Rodriguez earned his 56th save in closing out the Angels' 4-2 victory over the New York Yankees. Second-place Texas lost to Seattle 8-7 about an hour later, clinching the division for Los Angeles, who have the best record in MLB at 88-57.

Robb Quinlan hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the fifth that put the Angels ahead.

Rodriguez moved within one save of Bobby Thigpen's 18-year-old MLB record. He threw a called third strike past Hideki Matsui with runners at first and third for the final out.

Spot starter Dustin Moseley (2-4) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings in winning for the first time since April 9.

Andy Pettitte (13-13) lost for the sixth time in his last nine starts. He gave up four runs and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Torii Hunter, center, celebrates with Jeff Mathis, left, and Mike Napoli after the Texas Rangers lost to Seattle Mariners following the Angels victory over the New York Yankees, allowing the Angels to clinch the American League West title in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday Sept. 10, 2008.

Rays 4, Red Sox 2, 14 innings

At Boston, Carlos Pena hit a three-run homer in the top of the 14th, then Tampa Bay reliever Jason Hammel escaped a major jam in the bottom of the innings to beat Boston.

After playing more than five hours, the Rays increased their lead in the AL East to 2 1/2 games over the Red Sox. Boston's wild-card lead was cut to five games by Minnesota.

Tampa Bay was only 1-for-35 with runners in scoring position in this series before Pena homered.

Boston loaded the bases with no outs in the 14th against closer Troy Percival. Hammel took over with a 4-1 lead and retired three straight batters for his first save since he pitched at Class A Hudson Valley in 2002.

Mike Timlin (4-4) gave up Pena's 28th homer.

Trevor Miller (2-0) pitched one hitless inning for the win.

White Sox 6, Blue Jays 5

At Chicago, Mark Buehrle outpitched Roy Halladay and Chicago stopped Toronto's 10-game winning streak.

A.J. Pierzynski drove in three runs for the White Sox, who stayed one game ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central.

The Blue Jays scored three runs in the ninth inning and fell one victory short of tying the longest winning streak in team history, set in 1987 and matched in 1998.

Toronto lost to the White Sox for the first time in seven meetings this year.

Buehrle (13-11) gave up seven singles in 7 1-3 innings. He walked two and struck out six.

Buehrle left with a 5-0 lead and a runner on base. Alex Rios greeted reliever Octavio Dotel with his 14th homer. Pinch-hitter Brian Anderson's RBI single with two outs in the eighth put Chicago up 6-2.

Twins 7, Royals 1

At Minneapolis, Kevin Slowey allowed four hits over seven innings for Minnesota, which trounced Kansas City to notch consecutive wins for the first time in nearly three weeks.

Jason Kubel had three hits and two RBIs for Minnesota, while Alexi Casilla had three singles.

Four of Minnesota's five RBIs came with two outs, and the Twins (80-65) surpassed last year's victory total behind another strong start from Slowey (12-9).

The Royals fell to 3-11 this season against Minnesota and have lost 13 of their last 15 road games.

Indians 7, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Scott Lewis allowed three hits over eight shutout innings in his major league debut to pitch Cleveland past Baltimore.

Kelly Shoppach hit two solo homers and scored three runs for the Indians, who came in with a season-high six-game homerless drought.

Lewis (1-0) struck out three, walked none and retired the final eight batters in a 96-pitch performance. He came within three outs of being the first Cleveland pitcher since Luis Tiant in 1964 to throw a shutout in his major league debut.

Masahide Kobayashi gave up three hits, including an RBI double to Aubrey Huff, in the ninth.

Baltimore has lost 10 of 11, and has been outscored 89-31 in those losses.

Athletics 5, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Ryan Sweeney and Jack Cust hit back-to-back homers in the first inning for Oakland.

Sean Gallagher came off the disabled list and pitched four hitless innings for the A's, who have won four of five.

Oakland scored three runs in the fourth to take a 5-0 lead.

Armando Galarraga (12-6) allowed five runs and eight hits in four innings for Detroit.

Mariners 8, Rangers 7

At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki and Raul Ibanez both had four hits in Seattle's win over Texas.

Ibanez had three RBIs and Suzuki moved within 10 of an eighth straight season with at least 200 hits. That would tie Wee Willie Keeler for the most 200-hit seasons to start a career in the majors.

Nelson Cruz, Taylor Teagarden and Hank Blalock hit two-run homers for Texas, which couldn't overcome a rough outing from Kevin Millwood (9-9). Chris Davis added a solo drive in the eighth.

Ibanez hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Kameron Loe in the sixth to make it 7-6 and added another run-scoring single with two outs in the seventh.

Dodgers 7, Padres 2

At San Diego, Manny Ramirez hit two two-run homers, giving him 524 for his career, and Los Angeles beat San Diego for the Dodgers' 10th win in 11 games.

The Dodgers extended their lead in the National League West to a season-high 3 1/2 games over Arizona, which lost to San Francisco 4-3.

Derek Lowe (13-11) allowed three hits and one run in 5 1-3 innings before leaving the game in the sixth after being hit on the right leg by a one-hopper by Kevin Kouzmanoff.

Ramirez' first homer came in the fifth off starter Shawn Estes (2-2). His second was off Dirk Hayhurst in the ninth. Ramirez has 34 homers this season, 14 with the Dodgers.

James Loney homered for the Dodgers, hitting his 12th to ignite a three-run second inning.

Cubs 4, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Ted Lilly pitched eight sharp innings and Chicago capitalized on shaky fielding by injured Troy Glaus' replacement for its second win in nine games.

Backup third baseman Felipe Lopez made a fielding error and throwing error on consecutive plays in the second inning, helping the Cubs score four runs.

Chicago held its 4 1/2-game lead in the NL Central over Milwaukee and won for the 15th time in its last 19 road games. The Cubs improved the league's best record to 87-58.

Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run homer off Cubs closer Kerry Wood with one out in the ninth. Wood finished for his 28th save.

Lilly (14-9) allowed a run in a shaky first but nothing the last seven innings while striking out five and walking none.

Braden Looper (12-12) allowed four runs, one earned in five innings.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 3

At San Francisco, Eugenio Velez hit a two-out, two-run triple in the ninth inning and San Francisco rallied to edge Arizona and complete a three-game sweep.

The Giants matched their season-high win streak of five straight while Arizona lost its sixth straight overall and 10th consecutive on the road.

Bengie Molina started San Francisco's comeback with a one-out single off reliever Brandon Lyon. Pinch-runner Ryan Rohlinger moved to second on a two-out walk before Velez hit an 0-2 pitch to the gap in right-center.

It was the second straight game-winning hit for Velez, who had an RBI single in the ninth inning of Tuesday's 5-4 win over Arizona.

Brewers 4, Reds 3

At Milwaukee, Mike Cameron singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and Milwaukee rallied to avoid a three-game sweep against Cincinnati.

The NL wild card-leading Brewers trailed 3-1 after six innings when Cameron drew a leadoff walk in the seventh, moved up on a groundout and scored on shortstop Jeff Keppinger's throwing error off Jason Kendall's infield single.

Milwaukee loaded the bases with no outs in the eighth against David Weathers (2-6) before Tony Gwynn Jr. hit into a double play that scored J.J. Hardy for the tying run. Cameron singled in Ryan Braun to make it 4-3.

Marlins 7, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Ricky Nolasco struck out eight in 7 2-3 innings and Luis Gonzalez homered in Florida's win over Philadelphia.

Josh Willingham snapped a 3-all tie with an RBI double in the eighth and helped the Marlins win the three-game series. Dan Uggla added a two-run double in the ninth.

Ryan Howard hit his major league-leading 42nd homer for the Phillies.

Mets 13, Nationals 10

At New York, David Wright hit a two-run homer and tied a career high with four hits for New York, which blew a six-run lead before downing Washington.

Carlos Delgado, whose streak of multihomer games ended at two, hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh inning.

NL East-leading New York swept the two-game series and moved 3 1/2 games ahead of Philadelphia, which lost 7-3 to the Florida Marlins.

Delgado's sinking liner scored Wright and gave New York an 8-7 lead. Carlos Beltran scored on a wild pitch and Brian Schneider added a two-run single off Saul Rivera (5-6) to make it a four-run lead.

Cristian Guzman homered twice and finished with five RBIs for Washington, which became the first team in the majors to lose 90 games.

Astros 7, Pirates 4

At Houston, Miguel Tejada's grand slam broke open a close game in the sixth inning and helped Houston to its fifth straight win and 13th in 14 games.

Brian Moehler (11-6) went six innings and allowed two runs and five hits. Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his league-leading 42nd save. He stretched his franchise record for consecutive saves to 15.

Denny Bautista (4-3) pitched 1 1-3 innings and gave up five runs and three hits.

With the score tied 2-2, Darin Erstad's bases loaded sacrifice fly drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth. A walk to Mark Loretta then set up Tejada's 11th career grand slam and 13th homer of the season.

Braves 9, Rockies 5

At Atlanta, Kelly Johnson homered twice and James Parr pitched six more scoreless innings as Atlanta beat Colorado.

Chipper Jones homered for the Braves, who won it with a five-run seventh after the Rockies scored four in the top half to tie the game.

Parr extended his scoreless streak to 12 innings since coming up from the minors and left with a 4-0 lead. But all his good work was quickly undone by Atlanta's hapless bullpen.

The Rockies' relievers were just as bad.

Johnson, who homered in the first, led off the bottom half of the seventh with a homer off Luis Vizcaino (1-1). Jones followed with the 407th homer of his career, and Vizcaino was yanked without getting an out after Brian McCann doubled.

Jeff Bennett (3-6) got the win by pitching two-thirds of an inning.

Titans eager to move past questions on QB's psyche

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—If Vince Young isn't sure he wants to play football anymore, he didn't show it Wednesday. He reported to work, watched part of practice with a wrap around his sprained left knee and avoided reporters wanting to talk about his mother's comments indicating he doesn't want to play because of the negativity he's faced since being booed heavily during a 17-10 win over Jacksonville.

His coach and teammates are sticking with their quarterback and the official story that whatever happened that prompted coach Jeff Fisher to alert police to help locate Young and check on his emotional well-being was just a misunderstanding. And that it was blown out of proportion by the media.

And no, Young doesn't have to prove his commitment to either Fisher or his teammates.

"He led us to the playoffs last year. We just want him to get healthy and back on the field," Fisher said.

Young stood with linebacker Keith Bulluck and former college teammate Michael Griffin for part of practice. Bulluck said he knows Young is fine after speaking with him. The best way they can help the quarterback? Go beat Cincinnati on Sunday.

Bulluck said he's seen Donovan McNabb and Steve McNair get down after losses, something that goes with the pressures of being the quarterback. He expressed his confidence that Young will take the good and the bad of his position.

"That's just things quarterbacks go through. They probably wear red shirts for a reason. They're a little more sensitive than any position on the field," Bulluck joked before becoming serious. "... Being his third year I'm sure he has a lot on his plate like we all do. I know he'll rebound, and we'll be all right. That's why I'm saying that the situation will take care of itself."

Center Kevin Mawae called Young still a leader whose teammates trust and believe in him.

"Anything that happens outside the locker room will be outside the realm of football, that's something that's between him and his family and whoever's handling that with him," Mawae said.

AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young sits on the bench with ice on his knee in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008.

The quarterback didn't talk to reporters, but Fisher did promise Young will speak "at some point."

Young is the only person who knows what he was thinking Monday when he skipped an MRI exam to determine the extent of his sprained medial collateral ligament. Fisher and a psychologist met with the quarterback at his home, then he took off in his Mercedes to eat chicken wings and watch football.

But whatever he said at home prompted someone to call Fisher, who said Tuesday night the information he had didn't allow him the luxury of waiting. On Wednesday, Fisher only called it a misunderstanding, but defended what the team did as concern for an employee.

For now, veteran Kerry Collins will start. The Titans signed Chris Simms as insurance Wednesday and will not project when Young will be healthy enough to play. Fisher said the starter's job remains Young, but admitted the quarterback has some work to do.

"He has to put some things back in perspective, and first and foremost has to get healthy," Fisher said.

Young was booed in 2004 while in college when Texas was shut out by Oklahoma, and he was benched for the second half of a win over Missouri the next week. He responded by never losing another game.

"Anybody that knows Vince knows how competitive he is," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "He has a very high standard for himself. When he doesn't feel like he reached that standard at that moment, he does get disappointed.

"But he's fine. He's moving forward. He's been booed before. He's been criticized before. His worst moment here was his best moment because after he played so poorly against Missouri he never lost another game."

Young's fellow quarterbacks are offering up suggestions on dealing with the unique pressure of playing in this league.

Collins, the fifth overall pick in the 1995 draft, said he didn't learn how to handle all the attention until he wound up with his third team, the New York Giants in his fifth season. He said he'll be happy to be a resource for Young, but hasn't shared his own story yet.

"I was a young guy who played a lot, had success early and did some things that looking back probably weren't the right things to do. I learned from it. I think that's the most important thing, as it is in life. You make mistakes, you learn from it and move on," Collins said.

Bengals receiver Chad Johnson said football is fun, while pressure is being sent to fight in Iraq. Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer, who had to heal up from his own knee injury, doesn't know Young well. But he believes the key is not to worry about what anyone outside the team says.

"If you're a guy who is always worried about what people are saying about you, it's going to be tough, it's going to eat at you and get at you. But you need to experience it and figure it out and learn to roll with it," Palmer said.

Aaron Rodgers has dealt with his share of criticism in Green Bay and suggests keeping priorities straight.

"If you live your life and you decide your joy and happiness in life (is based) on what people say about you or think about you, you're going to be up and down every day," Rodgers said.

Saints WR Colston out 4-6 weeks with thumb injury

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Marques Colston, the New Orleans Saints' top receiver during the past two seasons, had surgery on his left thumb and will miss four to six weeks.

Colston said he had a torn ligament resulting from a play Sunday when he reached forward to make a catch while taking a helmet-first hit to his hands from Ronde Barber.

"I don't know if my thumb just got caught in an awkward position. It just bent all the way backward," said Colston, who was wearing a cast over his left hand. "I guess the only silver lining is that I'm going to have a chance to come back and play a good portion of the season and hopefully be back in time for that playoff push."

Colston tried to continue playing with the injury during the Saints' 24-20 victory over Tampa Bay, but finished with only three catches for 26 yards. He made one catch after the injury.

Colston was a seventh-round draft choice out of Hofstra in 2006. At 6-foot-5, 225 pounds, he provides quarterback Drew Brees a big target and emerged as one of Brees' favorite receivers during his rookie year. Colston went on to compile 2,241 yards receiving for 19 touchdowns in his first two seasons.

His 168 catches are more than any NFL receiver has had through only two seasons. During the summer, Colston agreed to a three-year contract extension that could keep him in New Orleans through the 2011 season.

"It's tough, especially when you lose a guy as productive as him," Brees said after Wednesday's practice. "But there's always an opportunity for a younger guy to step up or guys that might not get as much playing time ordinarily to step up and contribute even more.

"I'm confident with all our guys. However we piece it together, whoever is on the field knows what to do and they know they'll get their opportunities."

Most of Brees' 343 yards and all three of his touchdown passes in the victory over Tampa Bay involved receivers other than Colston.

How much tougher it is for other receivers to get open without Colston drawing double coverage remains to be seen. But the Saints also have a new receiving threat in tight end Jeremy Shockey, who made his debut last Sunday with six catches for 54 yards, including a drive-extending 10-yard catch on third down that set up a field goal.

"It was good for him to come out and play as many snaps as he did and make six catches, some of them very big, and third-down conversions," Brees said. "Certainly, he's a guy I'm not going to shy away from for any reason even if we haven't gotten as much time together as we hoped we would have through training camp, the preseason and such."

Colston's absence is expected to open the way for Robert Meachem to dress for a regular-season game for the first time since being drafted in the first round a year ago. New Orleans visits Washington on Sunday.

"You see the smile on my face? It's a dream come true," Meachem said. "I'll do whatever it takes to make my teammates and coaches proud and so my family back home can hold their heads high."

Meachem, who had a solid preseason that included a 60-yard touchdown and a 49-yard catch, was not sure why he was left off the active roster in the opener. The active receivers in the game were Colston, David Patten, Lance Moore, Devery Henderson and Terrance Copper. Copper and Moore both also play on special teams.

49ers QB Smith's season ends with shoulder injury

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Alex Smith's season is over with another shoulder injury. The high-priced quarterback's short career with the San Francisco 49ers is probably finished as well.

The 49ers put Smith on injured reserve Wednesday with a broken bone in his right shoulder. The top pick in the 2005 draft probably will require more surgery on the joint that limited him to seven games last season.

Coach Mike Nolan improbably claimed to know little about the injury that ended his former franchise quarterback's fourth NFL campaign before Smith even played in a regular-season game this fall. Smith's teammates expressed more concern than their gruff coach over his latest injury, which popped up during the club's final practice before last week's season opener.

"I feel sorry for him," said running back Frank Gore, the Niners' third-round pick in Smith's draft. "He was a great teammate and worked hard. I just hope the best for him, and hope he gets well."

After paying Smith more than $31 million during his four years with the 49ers, the bleak realities of NFL salary cap life mean the club is likely to release him before next season. General manager Scot McCloughan said last week that San Francisco can't risk paying $9 million in base salary to a backup quarterback in 2009.

Smith lost his starting job to journeyman J.T. O'Sullivan in training camp.

"I'm not going to answer any hypothetical questions about the future," said Nolan, who had an embarrassing public spat with Smith last year over the severity of the quarterback's shoulder injury. "We'll cross that bridge when we get there. My focus right now is on (Sunday's game against) Seattle."

Smith refused to comment after practice, and didn't respond to an additional request for comment Wednesday afternoon.

James' loyalties irk Cleveland fans

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James may raise the ire of local fans by wearing a New York Yankees cap or cheering for the Dallas Cowboys, but another of the city's biggest sports stars isn't bothered by the NBA icon's out-of-town loyalties.

As far as Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards is concerned, James can root, root, root for any team he wishes.

"I give him credit for being loyal," Edwards said Tuesday.

On Sunday, James, who last season showed up at an Indians playoff game against New York sporting a Yankees cap, was on Dallas' sideline during pregame warmups before the Browns' season opener against the Cowboys. In full view of Browns players, James, again wearing the Yankees cap and a blue-and-silver T-shirt, chatted with Dallas owner Jerry Jones and hugged Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens and cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones.

James has pledged an allegiance to America's Team since he was a kid.

"It didn't bother me," Edwards said. "As I've gotten to know LeBron, LeBron isn't a Cleveland guy. LeBron only plays for the Cavaliers, and who knows if he even likes the Cavaliers? He doesn't like the Indians. He doesn't like the Browns. He's a guy from Akron who likes everybody but his hometown.

"I don't know how that's possible, but it is what it is, and he is who he is. You know, it's LeBron."

Some Cleveland fans have had it with James' antics and a few of them were heard screaming so at the Cavs' All-Star, who helped the U.S. Olympic basketball team win a gold medal in Beijing last month.

James has been labeled traitorous for his affection for non-Cleveland sports teams. He also grew up rooting for the Chicago Bulls.

In Tuesday's Plain Dealer, columnist Phillip Morris questioned James' decision to flaunt his affinity for other teams any chance he gets.

"Does Cavaliers superstar James really hate Cleveland that much?" Morris asked. "Does the anointed one really think we're all a bunch of losers? If not, why does No. 23 go out of his way to show his disdain for professional sports teams in Cleveland that don't involve rims and orange balls?

"It makes you wonder whether he really likes you. I suppose it could be worse: He could be a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. But that sort of nonsense would make his life difficult in Cleveland. I guess we have no choice but to count our blessings and simply celebrate our Yankee-loving-Cowboy-hugging-global icon until he divorces us and takes his game somewhere else."

James has two years remaining on a contract extension he signed with the Cavaliers in July 2006. His affection for New York has prompted speculation that he intends to sign with either the Knicks or the New Jersey Nets, who are partly owned by his good friend, rap mogul Jay-Z.

Celtics give coach Doc Rivers 3-year extension

BOSTON (AP)—Doc Rivers received a contract extension giving him three more years as coach of the Boston Celtics on Tuesday after leading them to an NBA title one year following the second worst season in team history.

Rivers' contract, which had one year left, was extended through the 2010-2011 season at an annual salary of about $5.5 million, according to a person familiar with the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team does not release contract details.

Rivers coached the Celtics to their NBA record 17th championship and their first in 22 years in his fourth season as coach. Their 66-16 regular record was the best in the NBA and third best in club history.

They were 45-37 in his first season but just 24-58 in his third. The one year 42-win turnaround from that is a league record.

"He can handle the pressure of having to go through losses. He was extremely even keel in the worst periods," Steve Pagliuca, an owner and managing partner of the team, told The Associated Press.

The fortunes of the team turned around when it obtained guard Ray Allen from Seattle and forward Kevin Garnett from Minnesota in separate trades before last season.

The deals cost them several young players they had stockpiled, including Al Jefferson, who was developing into an outstanding forward.

But Rivers proved as adept at leading veteran stars as he was at teaching inexperienced players. That was one major reason the Celtics decided to extend his contract.

"We felt that Doc did an outstanding job ever since he's been here with the young players and transforming the veterans we have into a championship team," Pagliuca said.

The Celtics lost forward James Posey to free agency but are optimistic about draft choices J.R. Giddens, a guard, and Billy Walker, a forward. The entire starting lineup of Garnett, Allen, Paul Pierce, Rajon Rondo and Kendrick Perkins returns.

"Doc molded a championship team last season through his leadership and we are confident that he is the man to lead this franchise on the court now and in the future," general manager Danny Ainge said in a statement.

In his four seasons as coach of the Celtics, Rivers is 168-160.

"He's extremely team oriented in everything that he does so he wants the focus to be on the players," Pagliuca said. "He's a great teacher of young guys and because he was an NBA All-Star and very well respected point guard player, he's had an unbelievably good rapport with the superstars. He knows how to handle them and he knows how to really bring young players along.

Arthur, Chalmers fined $20,000 apiece by NBA

MIAMI (AP)—Former Kansas teammates Darrell Arthur and Mario Chalmers were fined $20,000 apiece after being banished last week from the NBA rookie symposium, the league said Wednesday.

Security at the resort near New York where the event took place found Arthur and Chalmers in a room with two women, and the scent of marijuana was detected. No drugs or drug paraphernalia were found, but having guests in the room violated NBA policy, and the two rookies were sent home.

Arthur and Chalmers apologized but denied using marijuana. Next year they'll have to again attend the symposium, which addresses the challenges of making the transition to pro ball.

Arthur and Chalmers helped Kansas win the NCAA championship and were selected in the June draft. Arthur is with the Memphis Grizzlies and Chalmers with the Miami Heat.

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CNMI Junior Nationals extend win streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals are on a roll notching their third win in a row after downing the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 63-49, in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Junior Nationals lost their debut in the 18-and-under caging after bowing to perennial rival Southern Sonics. But the Rufino Aguon-coached squad regrouped early and began asserting their might in the annual tournament.

The Saints have yet to win in three matches, failing to capitalize on the absence of Junior Nationals gunner Jericho Cruz in the first half.

Cruz was nursing a minor injury and was on the defending champion's bench in the entire first 20 minutes of the game.

With Cruz out, Marvin Rabauliman carried the cudgels for the Junior Nationals. He scored 12 of the team's last 14 points in the first half to put the Junior Nationals on top at halftime, 31-29.

Joseph White teamed up with Rabauliman in keeping the Junior Nationals in the lead, making eight points in the first half.

Cruz started playing a few minutes after the second half began and picked up where Rabauliman left off, hitting all his 13 markers in that period.

Still, Rabauliman topscored for the Junior Nationals with 21 points. White and Allen Moses contributed 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

The Saints had only Zack Tudela scoring in double figures with 17, but he nailed most of his points in the first half and was held to five markers in the second.

The win against the Saints put the Junior Nationals in solo second place behind the undefeated Sonics (4-0).

The Sonics were hoping to extend their winning run to five last night against the G-Rollers II.

In tonight's match, the two other unbeaten teams—the San Antonio Sixers and G-Rollers I—collide at 5:30 pm. The Sixers and G-Rollers share the third spot in the team standings with their identical 2-0 records.

Junior Nationals 63 – Rabauliman 21, White 14, Cruz 13, Moses 11, Castro 4.

Saints 49 – Tudela 1, Reyes 8, Cruz 5, Manas 4, Williams 4, Kaipat 3, Tenorio 2, Masga 2, Lizama 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-29, 63-49.

Referees: Gabriel White and Connie Camacho.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz did not play in the first half against the Chalan Kanoa Saints during their game in the Rotary caging Wednesday night, but scored 13 points in the second to lift his team to a victory.

CWGA September Ace tomorrow

The CNMI Women's Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament will be held tomorrow, Sept. 13, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in .

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(CWGA)***

MATTA

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tance Saipan, would be leaving for his next overseas assignment in the U.S mainland.

De Leon and Pobre, along with MATTA president Steve Lim and vice president Budhi Gurung as well as other members Luzette Pasana and Jean Shi and her two sons, spent the evening reminiscing how they became involved with the group and talked about fun memories playing the sport in the CNMI.

They also talked about the declining membership of the group as well as the current situation on Saipan.

"It's really hard to go especially for me. I remember winning in my first tournament," said De Leon, who has been on Saipan since 1991. He started joining MATTA activities in 1999.

Lim said De Leon and Pobre helped a lot as committee officials during the Micronesian Games that Saipan hosted in 2006.

Pobre joined MATTA in 2006. He has been involved in the sport since his college days as a varsity player for the University of Santo Tomas. Then, he played with several clubs in Manila including the Harrison Plaza Table Tennis Club and the PNB Table Tennis Club.

Lim, who has been the president since his first election in 2001, said there are currently just four active players because many have left Saipan already.

MATTA, which is a member of the International Table Tennis Federation, is virtually composed of guest workers and Lim is encouraging locals to join them.

The ping-pong association had been in existence since 1988 with Americans, Indians, and Chinese comprising the group, at one time or another.

Then in the 1990s, a Chamorro, Joe Santos, was at the helm and the group continued to draw players with good numbers until lately when many players from the Philippines went home for good.

Unlike other SPG countries that are well funded by the national government, MATTA is not in a position to host regional tournaments because of its lack of funds and membership.

Such regional tournaments should have been an excellent venue to test their mettle and in the process gain more experience against the best in the region.

The group, however, has been holding smaller tournaments twice a year with better players from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino based on neighboring Tinian. It also recently started luring Guam players to play in the CNMI and will host a number of Japanese players next month during its Big Ball competition.

PAIRE

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a coach, this would be a great time to show your interest," Sablan said.

Before the practice session, the club will meet with coaches at 3pm to discuss the upcoming league.

Paire is one of the four football clubs which will be participating in the fall youth league later this month. The three other clubs are MP United, Matansa, and Independents.

The fall season will kick off on Sept. 27 and will last until Oct. 30. The league will cap its fall season with the 2008 Youth Football Festival in November.

The Northern Mariana Island Football Association patterned the festival after the program under Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots and Youth Department.

The festival aims to provide players with the opportunity to play and enjoy games in a friendly competition environment, provide a platform for grassroots coach and referee education, and to encourage officials, coaches and players towards good sportsmanship, and a fair play code of behavior.

Last year's festival was a whole-day affair with more than 100 kids playing one game after another.

Meawhile, Paire is still accepting players interested to join the club's teams in the Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, and Under 15 divisions.

Young strikers from As Teo, Papago, Kagman, Kannat Tabla, San Vicente, and Upper Dandan are encouraged to register with the club.

Registration fee is $25 for new players and $10 for returnees.

For more information, contact Sablan via email at francinergs@yahoo.com.

BAPTISM

From Page 44

Promoter and Trench Tech Inc. president Justis F. "Cuki" Alvarez said some of the new grapplers are fighting independently.

A total of 20 bouts are slated for the mixed martial arts event, including the main event between Derick "Pinchi" Rangamar of Marianas Elite and Chris "No Luv" Laayug of Trench Tech in the 140-lb. weight class.

Laayug has a slight edge with his 3-1 win-loss record while Rangamar (2-2) is aiming to pullout an upset.

Jayson Teregoyo and Jerome Fujihara of Trench Tech will taste their first cage fight against separate opponents in the 135-lb. division.

Teregoyo will face "No" Angel Santos while Fujihara will test Gregory Camacho. Both Santos and Camacho have 0-1 records.

In the 130-lb bout, Roman "Boom" Alvarez of Trench Tech will also debut against Raegan Mality (0-1) of Team Pwang.

In the 125 lbs., Jess Santos (0-1) of Team Predators takes on another newcomer Eric Torres of Trench Tech, while in the 135-lb. weight category, Jerold Michael debuts against Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez (1-0) of Trench Tech.

One of the most experience fighters in the fold would be Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez of Trench Tech who has a clean 3-0 record.

Pika Boo will be fighting at 130 lbs. against 133-pounder Sefich Lorenzo, who is also a rookie in the octagon.

Another Trench Tech fighter is 150-lb. T.J. "Ying Yang" Castro, who has a 1-0 record. He will go up against a heavier opponent in the person of Joe Cabrera who tips the scales at 155 lbs.

The heaviest weight class is 195 lbs. with Shawn Ogo of Team Haga squaring off against fellow newcomer V.J. Tenorio of Trench Tech

Completing the tentative fight cards are the following:

- Rayson Ray (0-1), 150 lbs. vs. Fal Arriola, D.A.T. Gym (debut), 150 lbs.;
- Martin Castro (0-2), Trench Tech, 175 lbs. vs. Chris Myers (0-2), Zalaka 150 lbs.;
- Larry Angui (0-1), Streetfight, 180 lbs. vs. Joe Ngiraibuuch (1-0), Trench Tech, 180 lbs.;
- Mark 'The Dark' Nuque (debut) Trench Tech, 160 lbs. vs. Derrec Chen (0-1), Zalaka, 155 lbs.;
- Ryan Ngirbabul (debut), Trench Tech, 155 lbs. vs. Sal Limes (0-1), Freestyle, 155 lbs.;
- Bryan Castro (debut), Streetfight, 125 lbs. vs. Robert A. Baza (debut) MTM Guam;
- Jamie Hermosila (1-0), Dry Cleaners, 140 lbs. vs. James Castro (debut), Boxing, 145 lbs.;
- Edwin 'Styx' Castro Jr. (debut), 175 lbs. vs. Sanderson Sebuu (debut), Xtreme, 175 lbs.;
- Ben Taisacan (debut), Freestyle, 190 lbs. vs. Robert "Pitbull" Palacios (0-4), South Syde Syndicates, 190 lbs.;
- Jordan Ogo (debut), Team Haga, 128 lbs. vs. Raymond C. Deluma (debut), 125lbs.; and
- Dexter Tenorio (debut), Pinoy Fighter, 145 lbs. vs. Ed Palma (debut), Cagers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	87	57	.604	_
Boston	85	60	.586	2 1/2
Toronto	78	67	.538	9 1/2
New York	77	69	.527	11
Baltimore	64	80	.444	23

Central Division

Chicago	81	64	.559	_
Minnesota	80	65	.552	1
Cleveland	71	73	.493	9 1/2
Detroit	70	76	.479	11 1/2
Kansas City	61	83	.424	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	88	57	.607	_
Texas	71	75	.486	17 1/2
Oakland	67	78	.462	21
Seattle	57	87	.396	30 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	82	63	.566	_
Philadelphia	79	67	.541	3 1/2
Florida	74	72	.507	8 1/2
Atlanta	64	82	.438	18 1/2
Washington	56	90	.384	26 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	87	58	.600	_
Milwaukee	83	63	.568	4 1/2
Houston	79	67	.541	8 1/2
St. Louis	78	67	.538	9
Cincinnati	66	80	.452	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	60	85	.414	27

West Division

Los Angeles	75	71	.514	_
Arizona	71	74	.490	3 1/2
Colorado	67	79	.459	8
San Francisco	65	80	.448	9 1/2
San Diego	56	90	.384	19

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 3
San Francisco 4, Arizona 3
Florida 7, Philadelphia 3
Atlanta 9, Colorado 5
N.Y. Mets 13, Washington 10
Houston 7, Pittsburgh 4
Chicago Cubs 4, St. Louis 3
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 2
Oakland 5, Detroit 2
L.A. Angels 4, N.Y. Yankees 2
Seattle 8, Texas 7
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2, 14 innings
Cleveland 7, Baltimore 1
Minnesota 7, Kansas City 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Toronto 5

By The Associated Press

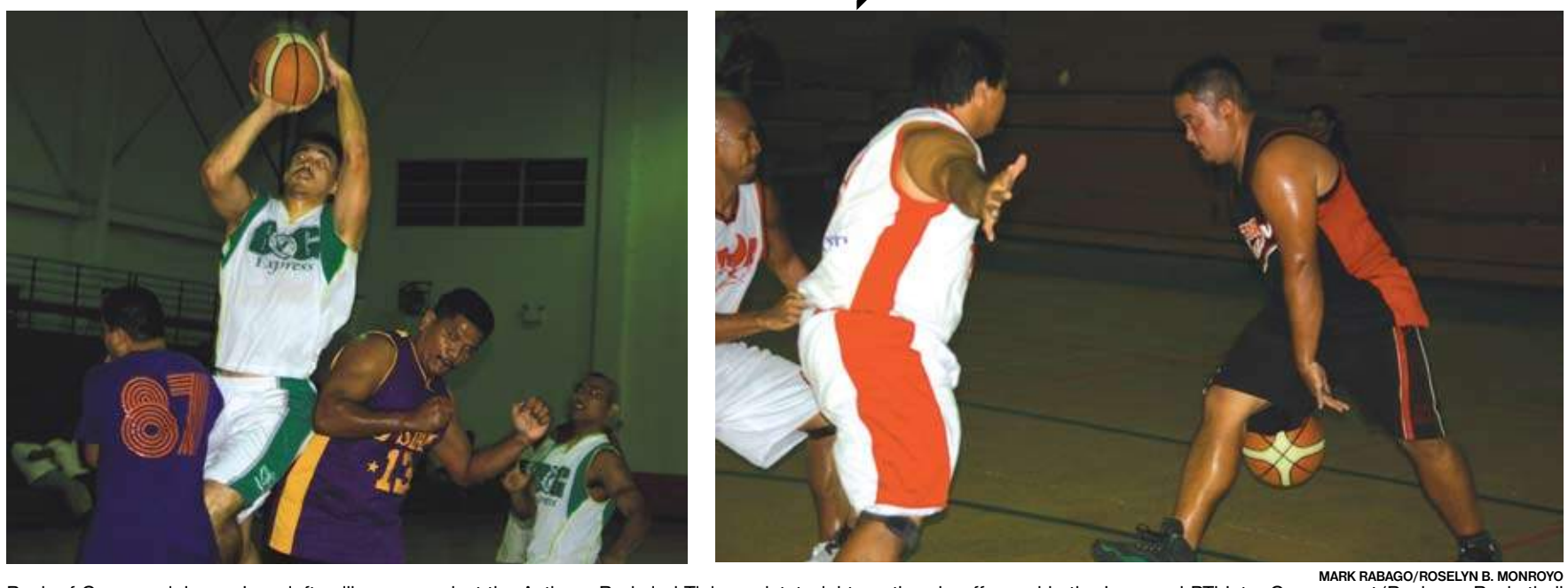
LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Southern Sonics	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
G-Rollers I	2	0
San Antonio Sixers	2	0
Kontenders	2	2
G-Stars	2	2
C.K. Saints	0	3
Suns	0	3
G-Rollers II	0	4

Make or break for Tinian, Bank of Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MARK RABAGO/ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bank of Guam and James Lee, left, will go up against the Anthony Borja-led Tinian quintet, right, as the playoff round in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League continues tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Staying alive will be the theme in the game between Tinian and Bank of Guam tomorrow as the playoff round in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League continues at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 2006 champion Tinian and the BOG Express dropped their opening assignments in the playoffs putting them in a must-win situation.

The playoff round has a double-elimination format.

Tinian lost to PTI via forfeit giving the host a free ride to the winners' bracket. The PTI-Tinian tiff was set for Tuesday night, but the visitors could not make it on time for the game.

The BOG-Tinian match was originally scheduled last night, but the latter requested to play this Saturday, as it would not be able to go to Saipan on weekdays due to work commitment and problems in transportation.

The last trip of the ferry bound for Saipan is around 3pm and it heads back to Tinian at 5pm. The next available trip will be 7am. As much as possible, Tinian players do not want to board a plane to go to Saipan and return home for cost-cutting measures.

The BOG Express has no problem making it to the game, as all their players are based on Saipan and it is slightly favored against the visitors having won their initial meeting in the regular season.

The Express is hoping to recover from a disappointing 82-83 loss at the hands of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

BOG had control of the game, leading by six going into the last two minutes of the game until Elias Rangamar hit a back-breaking triple in the dying seconds of the match to steal the win.

The winner of the BOG-Tinian match will advance to the quarterfinals of the losers' bracket and face the victor of the Legislature-Department of Corrections tiff.

The Lawmakers and Corrections were scheduled to collide Wednesday night, but the game was reset to Thursday night. Last night's loser will be eliminated from the tournament.

Tonight, pennant champion Northern Marianas College will try to move closer to a return trip to the finals when it meets Autonomous at 6:30pm.

NMC won easily against the Lawmakers, 82-68, but is expected to have a tougher time against the defending champion Autonomous.

Autonomous also eased past its foe, trouncing Corrections, 82-68

On Monday, DCCA will duel PTI with the winner meeting the victor of the NMC-Autonomous tiff for the first finals ticket.

Group thanks sponsors of 'Bowling Fun Day'

With Marianas Institute of CPAs and Accountants' "Bowling Fun Day" a mere day away, the group is extending its heart-felt thanks to the event's sponsors.

MIFICPA said that the one-day bowling tournament for the island's accountants and auditors wouldn't have been possible without the help of PTI, Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche, Mr. Eli Arago, Jet Holdings Company, Century Insurance Company, Ltd., Shirley's Coffee Shop, Seabridge, Genoveva Hair Power, Traders Insurance, Century Finance Corporation, Saipan Stevedore, City Trust, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Coca-Cola Micronesia, and Island Apparel.

The group's "Bowling Fun Day" will be held on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1pm to 6pm at Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Institute of CPAs and Accountants' bowlers pose for a group shot after taking part in a recent league on Saipan.

MIFICPA wants to leave a legacy of caring for the needs of all accountants in the CNMI. To achieve this end, the group is inviting everyone, including non-members to attend the event. One more thing, MIFICPA will shoulder the bowling lane fee through the generosity of the organization's supporters.

"The message is, if you are an accountant who wants to have a breakaway then you are very much welcome to join the fun, fun, fun, super fun," the group said.

To be awarded at the end of the tournament are prizes for the winning teams and special prizes for accountant bowlers coming from the aforementioned sponsors.

MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts for the event to be sold for only $5.

Interested players/participants should email their name and contact number to any of the following: MIFICPA president Irene Santiago at irene_saipan@yahoo.com; Marlon Estigoy at marlon@saipan.com; Rene Cariazo at rene_cariazo@cicspn.com; or to Benjie Ganapain at bhnjit@yahoo.com. They can also call Lois at 235-9322.

All entries must be submitted on or before Sept. 12, cut-off date. ***(MIFICPA)***

Meeting for Saipan Cell/PCA Softball on Sept. 15

Palau Community Association president Rufino Aguon announced yesterday that there would be a mandatory meeting of representatives from the different teams that are joining next week's Saipan Cell/CPA Softball Tournament.

The meeting will be held at the Northern Marianas College Gym on Monday, Sept. 15, starting at 5pm and will discuss the schedule of games and tournament format.

The annual tournament is a fundraising activity of PCA.

Defending champion Yes for Casino is expected to participate again in the four-day event to be held on two weekends, Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28, at the Dandan Ball Field.

Entrance fee will be $400.

A cash prize of $1,000 will be up for grabs this year plus a trophy to the champion team.

Organizers are anticipating a minimum of eight and maximum of 12 teams for the tournament.

Today, Sept. 12, is the deadline of submission of entries.

The Saipan Cell/CPA Softball Tournament will be a double elimination format and each team will have a maximum of 15 players.

All players and/or members must sign the attached waiver form and failure to sign will result in the player not being eligible to play.

ISF rules will be used, except there will be no homeruns allowed. A home run will be considered an out.

For payments, please contact the following PCA members: Rufino Aguon 234-5498 ext. 2500 (NMC Gym); Norman Mobel 322-9707 (Saipan Shipping); Eileen Kintol 235-6804 (Palau Consulate); and Brian Adelbai, 234-8438 (Pacific Postal Plus). ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Newman-Mister duo tops PIC Horseshoe tilt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Becca Newman and Angie Mister bested four other pairs to rule the 2008 Pacific Islands Club Horseshoe Tournament held last week on the grounds of the San Antonio hotel.

Newman and Mister won the ninth edition of the annual tournament after whipping the pair of Tyce Mister and David Loan in the finals, 21-6.

The pair of Newman and Angie Mister received $60 each and Magellan brunch certificates for two for beating Tyce and Loan.

Loan and Tyce also went home with Magellan brunch certificates and $20 each.

There was a tie for third place between the duos of Megan Hasselshear and Linda Roberts and Mark McDonald and Greg Folta. They each won one PIC waterpark passes for two.

In fifth place was the pair of Divya Sharma and Karen McDonald, who received Pacific Trading Company products.

The annual tournament had a round-robin format in the preliminary round and single elimination in the playoffs.

All teams tasted defeat in the elimination round before the duo of Newman and Angie Mister went unbeaten in the playoffs.

Meanwhile, PIC is reminding teams of the banquet for the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League Beach Volleyball League on Sept. 18.

During the banquet, teams will select players from the pool. Organizers have been implementing rules similar to the drafting of players in the NBA in the past several years to have a balanced competition in the league.

Actual contest will begin on Sept. 23 and games will be held twice a week.

The entrance fee is $20 per player and a NMIVA member and $25 for non-members.

For more information, contact PIC sports manager Lindsey Sosovec at 235-6231 (extension 5147) or send an email to seasexec@picsaipan.com.

RGA September Ace this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its September Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Kingfisher Golf Links with Tars Olopai's net 66 the score to beat.

Olopai registered the net 66 during the club's September qualifier held a couple of weeks ago at the same Talafofo golf course.

Tournament director Jess Wabol set a check-in time of 11am with tee off scheduled an hour later at 12pm. After the tournament, RGA will hold a meeting at a still unspecified venue.

Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

He said only four monthly championships—including this Sunday's—remain before RGA's yearend Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. ***(RGA)***

Angels beat Yankees, clinch 4th AL West title in 5 years

The Los Angeles Angels became the first team in Major League Baseball to clinch a playoff berth by winning their fourth American League West title in five years on Wednesday. **39**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Make or break for Tinian, Bank of Guam

Staying alive will be the theme in the game between Tinian and Bank of Guam tomorrow as the playoff round in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League continues at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. **43**

No rest for CNMI's sprint queen

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If there will a survey on the busiest athletes in the CNMI as far as competing in regional/international tournaments is concerned, Yvonne Bennett will make the list if not top it.

The Kagman High School senior participated in three tough tournaments since August last year and is on her fourth one.

And Yvonne is not competing in one sport, but two.

The 18-year-old daughter of Ambrose and Lillian Bennett took part in sprint events in the 2007 World Athletics Championships in August last year in Osaka, Japan, and in the Oceania Grand Prix Series and the 2008 Oceania Championships, which Saipan hosted in June this year.

She broke the CNMI's national record in the 100m when she timed in at 13.16 seconds in Japan. She owns the previous record of 13.57, which she set in the tournament in Guam on the same year.

Yvonne Bennett in action during the recent 2008 Oceania Championships held at the Oleai Track and Field here on Saipan.
DAN KIMBALL

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Bennett shattered the CNMI national mark in the 100m race twice the following year with the first one in the GP Series when she clocked in at 13.13 seconds and the second in the Oceania championships when she posted 12.99 seconds.

Bennett also had outstanding performance in the 200m and 400m, making records in both races. On top of these, she won two bronze medals in the GP Series, which featured top athletes from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and other powerhouse squads in the region.

Later this month, Bennett will be competing in her fourth regional tournament. But this time, the venue will be a basketball court, not a track oval.

She will finally be playing a sport she fell in love first.

"Basketball is my first sport. I started playing it when I was in junior high," said Bennett, who is among the stalwarts of the Kagman Lady Ayuyus in the high school basketball league and will be playing for the CNMI Junior Nationals in the 2008 Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam later this month.

Her twin sister, Yvette, was the one who introduced her to athletics.

"She signed up for a tournament in school and asked me to try it. At first, I did not feel like I am going to enjoy it. But one tournament after another, I started getting use to it and people are noticing my improvement," Yvonne said.

Yvonne has been into sprint races only for two years, but has earned the CNMI's sprint queen title, which good friend Jacque Wonenberg owned before.

Bennett said she and Wonenberg, who shifted to middle distance races and jumping events, do not mind competing against each other.

"It's a friendly competition. I pushed Jacque to do her best in every race and she does the same for me. The same goes for my twin sister, she tries to break my record, I try to break hers," Yvonne added.

Yvonne said she decided to get herself involved into sports, not only to stay fit, but to prepare for her future.

"Being an athlete and excelling in your sport will give you an opportunity to apply for a scholarship in college," she said.

Bennett is currently working on her application with the Arizona State University and another university in the Southwest.

"I hope I can get a scholarship to pursue my college education and at the same time be part of the university's track team," said Yvonne, who idolizes Beijing Olympics 200m silver medalist Allyson Felix.

Asked what comes to her mind first once she steps on the starting block, she said "focus on the finish line, never look back, whether you are ahead or behind."

In basketball, Yvonne said her focus will be on defense and to help the team play competitive games against Oceania cagebelles.

"This will be the first time that the CNMI will be sending a women's team to the Oceania basketball tournament and we want to make a good mark in Guam," she said.

After the tournament in Guam, Yvonne said she will be preparing for the high school league and is hoping to give the Lady Ayuyus a title before she graduates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paire strikers in action in last year's NMIFA Fall Youth Football League. Paire are still looking for players for this year's fall season which will start on Sept.27

Paire strikers prep for fall youth league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Paire Football Club's preparations for the 2008 NMIFA Fall Youth Football League will continue this weekend as it will be holding drills and scrimmages at the San Vicente Elementary School Field tomorrow.

Club secretary Francine Sablan is reminding players to bring shin guards and shoes for the practice. Players who have more than a pair of shin guards and shoes are welcome to donate them for other players.

The scrimmage will run from 3:30pm to 5pm and Sablan is encouraging parents to join their children at the venue.

"We would appreciate any help from coaches and parents during these registration/practice days. If parents are interested in coaching or assisting

See PAIRE on Page 42

MATTA holds farewell dinner for Pobre, De Leon

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association hosted a farewell dinner for members Con Pobre and Peter De Leon Tuesday night at the Guangzuo Restaurant in Garapan.

De Leon, an architect with E.F. Camacho Engineers and Architects, would be relocating to Seoul, South Korea, for his next job.

Meanwhile, Pobre, who is the bank manager of PNB Remit-

See MATTA on Page 42

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Officers and members of the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association pose during a regular practice last Sept. 6 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. From left are vice president Budhi Gurung, Jean Shi, Luzette Pasana, Peter de Leon, Con Pobre, president Steve Lim, Su Yong Dong, and Mario Espeleta.

Baptism of fire for 22 fighters in 'ROP- 5'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Twenty-two of the 40 fighters featured in "Rites of Passage V: Raging Warriors" will be making their debuts on Sept. 27 at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas.

See BAPTISM on Page 42